Entertainment / A28

Hollywood, here he comes!

World / A8

Iraqis defy attacks, vote in high numbers

Lifestyle / C1

Spreading the gospel of vegetarianism

Metro / A19

Unchlorinated water downs 39 people in Pasay

Tanong ng Bayan / A16

RP media: Nagkulang ba sa good news?

CELLCARD KADA ARAW,
CELLPHONE KADA LINGGO! Text 2910 now!

Tagum publisher shot, wounded in attack

By Juliet Labog-Javellana, Christian V. Esguerra and PDI Mindanao Bureau

A PUBLISHER of a weekly newspaper in Mindanao has been shot and seriously wounded in a renewed attack against media people, despite fresh government pledges to protect

TAGUM/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Free cultural training for 28 poor provinces

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

WHO SAYS culture and the arts are only for the rich?

The Kalahi cultural services for the poor was launched yesterday in Malacañang by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

Under this program, children and the

FREE/ A6

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Tuesday, February 1, 2005 ★★ 52 pages 4 sections Vol. 20 No. 55 P18

website: www.inq7.net

RP economy grows 6.1%

GDP expansion fastest since 1989

By Michelle V. Remo
Business

WITH THE services sector making up for the heavy damage wrought by storms on crops last November and December, the Philippine economy grew 6.1 percent in 2004, beating government growth forecasts of 4.9 to 5.8 percent.

According to data released yesterday by the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB), last year's growth of the gross domestic product (GDP)—the market value of goods and services produced in the country—was the fastest since the 6.2-percent expansion in 1989 and well above the 4.7 percent in 2003.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said she was likewise "delighted" with the 6.1-percent growth of the country's gross national product (GNP), which includes remittances of overseas Filipino workers as well as earnings of Philippine companies abroad.

Last year's GNP growth, the fastest since the 7.6-percent expansion in 1996, outpaced the 5.6-percent growth in 2003.

"This is our highest since 1996 and shows the resiliency and capacity of our people to overcome crisis, work hard and keep on track to a better future," Ms Arroyo said during the celebration marking the Philippine National Police's 14th anniversary at Camp Crame.

She thanked Congress for "putting our fiscal house in order," and the country's farmers who managed to maintain high productivity despite last year's floods and typhoons which destroyed large areas in eastern Luzon.

Arroyo said industry and services were picking up due to higher farm incomes and overseas remittances were adding fu-

RP ECONOMY/ A7

PNP DAY RITES
Members of the Philippine National Police swear to fulfill their duties during ceremonies marking the 14th founding anniversary of the PNP held at Camp Crame in Quezon City.
EDWIN BACASMAS

Santiago identifies RP's 'big-time illegal loggers'

MIRIAM'S LISTS

CHARGED IN TOP 10 ILLEGAL LOGGING CASES
Based on the value of illegal logs involved

Rank	Region	Individuals Involved	Amount (in millions of pesos)
1	10	Rodrigo Pupos and John Does	2.3
2	11	Roland Sebiano, Virgilio Duterte, William Paredes, Loreto Emactao and Eliseo Nermal	1.2
3	3	Ester de Guzman	1.1
4	3	Oscar Soro	1.0
5	12	Maj. Dencio Antonio Jr. et al.	.759
6	5	Jose Colle	.665
7	3	Carlito Tiu	.610
8	4A	Alfredo Marquez and Dante Medina	.463
9	8	Ramon Co	.458
10	11	Aristotle Abella, Ronie Cainoy, Nestor Clamor, Pelectrino Latiban, Jolito Cadayog and John Does	.234

ALLEGED MOST DEADLY ILLEGAL LOGGERS

1. Antonio Libuangan, Operation code name Ay-Enng
2. Rolly Ma, Operation code name Datu
3. PICOP Resources Inc. (PRI)
4. Shaway Uy

MORE LISTS / A17

ROGER MARGALLO

SANTIAGO prescribes death penalty for illegal logging.

By Christine O. Avendaño

CALLING for death to illegal loggers, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago yesterday named several alleged culprits, including a Quezon mayor, a businessman with ties to a congressman who is in the newspaper business, and a protegé of a former secretary for special concerns of the present administration.

In a privilege speech, Santiago also named 43 incumbent and former governors who, she said, were responsible for illegal logging in 25 provinces.

She later told reporters that the list had come from a mix of sources, including her nephew, Environment Secretary Michael Defensor, and her own informants.

The senator said in her speech that the death penalty for illegal loggers and possibly their political patrons was the "final solution" to the crime of illegal logging.

She made the call after reminding her colleagues about the high death toll from the flooding and landslides that hit Aurora, Quezon, Nueva Ecija and other provinces late last year.

The flooding and landslides, which were traced to massive logging, killed 1,068 people, destroyed 56,591 houses and damaged property valued at P7.6 billion, according to Santiago.

She noted that the tragedy happened before in other places such as Ormoc City and Mindoro.

"If these disasters happen over and over, repeating themselves as headline events, it is because the public officials in effect turn a blind eye to the crime of illegal logging, which is accepted as a major contributory factor to the devasta-

SANTIAGO/ A17

2 Diwalwal miners on wanted list

By Christian V. Esguerra

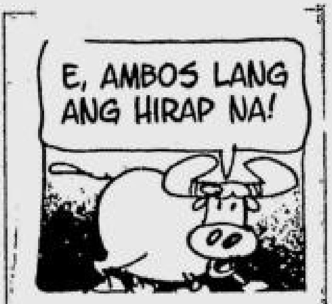
BRANDING them as "murderers," President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered the arrest of two brothers whom she linked to illegal mining on Mt. Diwalwal, and the fielding of a new security force in the area believed to contain $18 billion worth of gold deposits.

Speaking at the 14th anniversary ceremony of the Philippine National Police, Ms Arroyo identified the brothers as Tata and Edgar Sala, whom she branded as "the centers of gravity of illegal mining in Diwalwal."

"The chief PNP shall include the murderers Tata Sala and his brother Edgar Sala ... in the most wanted lists and the chief PNP shall effect their immediate arrest," she said.

Ms Arroyo said she had also or-

2 DIWALWAL/ A18


E, AMBOS LANG ANG HIRAP NA!

'Super lucky' BIR official dismissed

By Armand N. Nocum

ANO siya, sinuswerte?

A top official of the Bureau of Internal Revenue thought he could explain away his wealth by saying he had won the sweepstakes twice.

Yeah, right.

For failing the govern-

SUPER/ A7

GOING SOFT, PLAYING SAFE

This developer burns money and cuts trees

By Luz Rimban
Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism

(Last of two parts)

OF ALL the companies cutting trees in Quezon and Aurora provinces, Green Circle Properties and Resources Inc. stands out. For one, Green Circle is not a wood-based company. For another, its president, Romeo Roxas, burns money literally.

At public meetings, Roxas shocks crowds of peasants, environmental activists, community leaders and local government officials each time he sets fire to crisp peso bills. It's just to make a point, and the point is, according to those who heard him say it, is this: "It's easy to make money, and easy to find funding for development projects. Money is not a problem."

Considering that Roxas is also a director of Philippine Veterans Bank, it's obvious where he's coming from. Indeed, he does not seem to run out of funds for a variety of enterprises that range from real estate and construction to banking. He could very well have a green thumb when it comes to business, because his companies are named Green Circle, Green Square, Green Dreams and Green Earth.

Perhaps the biggest of all his businesses is Green Circle, which has a special

THIS DEVELOPER/ A18

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/02/01/05

Second FRONTPAGE

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

More palatable VAT up at Senate

By Michael Lim Ubac and Juliet Labog-Javellana

SENATORS are now cooking up a more palatable version of the proposed 20-percent hike in the value-added tax (VAT) amid growing opposition to the Malacañang-backed tax measure.

Sen. Ralph Recto, Senate ways and means committee chair, told reporters following a public hearing on the bill yesterday that it "was possible the multiple VAT rate system" (different rates for different goods and services) being implemented in other countries would be the answer to the cash-flow problems of the Arroyo administration.

Recto was forthright in saying there was no way the Senate would adopt the House-approved version of the bill raising the VAT rate from the current 10 percent to 12 percent.

"There's an opportunity to correct the VAT as well, to make it equitable and progressive and, at the same time, raise revenues for the government," said Recto, who presided over the committee hearing, the first on the VAT measure expected to last a month.

Present at the hearing were Finance Undersecretary Emmanuel Bonoan, National Tax Research Center Executive Director Lina Isorena, former Sen. Ernesto Maceda, Romeo Bernardo of the Foundation for Economic Freedom, Raul Concepcion of Consumer and Oil Price Watch, and representatives of market vendors and cooperative associations.

Fiscal managers earlier predicted the full revenue potential of a 12-percent VAT rate would be P50 billion, plus another P28 billion from the repeal of VAT exemptions, per year.

Sen. Joker Arroyo, who attended the hearing, said the "emerging consensus" among members of both blocs in the Senate was the imposition of a VAT "depending on the kinds of goods and services."

"It seems that everybody is also trying to be very polite," said Arroyo who, along with Recto and Sen. Manuel Villar, had vowed to block any new tax measures that would further burden the poor.

Arroyo said the present 10-percent rate was the standard in the Asia-Pacific region.

"So we are in line with the median VAT. So there's no need to increase now, although in other countries the rates are high but they are more advanced," he said.

Recto said that since the minority bloc was opposed to increasing the current 10-percent rate, the chamber could come up with a multitiered VAT system with two or three rates.

It could either be 5-10-15 percent or 4-8-12 percent, he said.

"The average in the VAT system today all over the world is at least three rates. Some have two and some four. So we could probably have two or three [rates]. In the UK, it's two rates—5 (percent) and 7.5 (percent)," he said.

Sen. Edgardo Angara said the senators were more keen on widening the tax base by lifting the exemptions currently being enjoyed by petroleum companies, independent power producers and cooperatives, among others.

"Everyone is against the rate increase. I think there is a consensus on lifting the exemptions, except for certain sectors. That means expanding the coverage instead of raising the rate," Angara said.

He also favored a multitiered scheme for certain goods.

Former Sen. Ernesto Maceda, invited by the Senate because of his expertise in taxation, said raising the VAT was not the "best and only option."

Among 13 solutions he advocated were the elimination of the pork barrel and internal revenue allotment; removing all VAT exemptions; reining in the energy sector by selling Transco's assets; zeroing in on the P80-billion unreported income by self-employed individuals as claimed by BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno; addressing rampant smuggling, including that of petroleum products; collecting at least three percent more from IPPs; taxing the telecoms' P50-billion windfall profits; amending the "sin" taxes; clamping down on the excessive budgets of government corporations, and organizing a special campaign to tax illegal income.

A PROTESTER dramatizes the campaign against an increase in the Value Added Tax by likening it to the heavy rock on his shoulder during a rally by militant groups in front of the Senate Building Monday.
ERIK ARAZAS

President Macapagal-Arroyo, however, stood pat on the need for a VAT rate increase, rejecting Joker Arroyo's earlier call for her to withdraw the bill.

"The President considers the VAT bill the lynchpin of our economic program as this will be one of the measures that will put our fiscal house in order and fund [her] very important 10-point agenda... so withdrawal of this proposal would be out of the question," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

"But we're open to all well-meaning proposals coming from all quarters... that will soften or cushion the impact of these proposals on the lowest sector," he said.

Joker Arroyo had called on the President to withdraw the measure because the political price she would have to pay for the "divisive" bill would not be worth it.

Bunye said the President was supportive of the lifting of VAT exemptions for certain sectors like lawyers and doctors.

He said the President would also welcome proposals to widen the safety nets or include more items to be exempted from VAT.

"It's a longer list than the three items mentioned (sardines, noodles and bread)... Unfortunately, this was not incorporated in the first version that was approved (by the House)," Bunye said.

At the House, Agusan del Sur Rep. Rodolfo Plaza, who was among the 126 congressmen who had voted for the bill's passage, moved in a privilege speech yesterday for a reconsideration of the voting on the VAT bill which passed on its third and final reading last week in the lower chamber. *With Cynthia D. Balana, Blanche S. Rivera and Norman Bordadora*

Navy ships to fetch Filipinos facing deportation in Sabah

By TJ Burgonio

THE GOVERNMENT will send Navy ships to Sabah to ferry home the estimated 170,000 undocumented Filipinos who face deportation after Malaysia's amnesty program for illegal migrant workers ended yesterday.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo has reconvened the Philippine Inter-Agency Task Force to facilitate an "orderly repatriation" from the time they leave Sabah until they arrive in Tawi-Tawi, Foreign Undersecretary Jose Brillantes said yesterday.

"We're sending as many [ships] as necessary," he said in a hastily called briefing. "This will entice Filipinos in Malaysia to come home, especially those who have availed of the amnesty but do not have the funds for the trip to the Philippines."

But even as it braced for the tough task of repatriating thousands of illegal workers, the government remained hopeful the Malaysian government would grant its motion for a month-long extension of the amnesty period.

"We've moved to ask an extension; we'll get a response very soon," Brillantes said of the motion, which the government filed on Jan. 26, a mere five days before the deadline set for illegal migrant workers to avail of the amnesty program.

But in talks with presidential special representative Nur Jaafar last month, Malaysian Minister of Home Affairs Datuk Azmi Khalid indicated that granting an extension "requires the approval of the federal government."

The Jan. 31 deadline was the second extension granted by Malaysia since it launched the amnesty program in October last year. The program's goal was to encourage some 1.3 million illegal workers to come out in the open and leave without penalty.

Today, Malaysian authorities are expected to mount a nationwide crackdown on the undocumented migrant workers.

Malaysian police had estimated the number of undocumented Filipinos in Sabah at 170,000. So far, the embassy has issued 17,500 travel documents to Filipinos, but only an estimated 6,600 have taken up the offer and left Malaysia, officials said.

PNP opens spy academy

By Christian V. Esguerra

IT'S NOT exactly "The Farm," the insider slang for the United States' Central Intelligence Agency's training camp in Virginia.

But it has the same objectives.

The Philippine National Police yesterday inaugurated its intelligence training school, a three-story facility for aspiring spies located in Camp Crame.

The P15-million school which sits on a 15 x 32 square meter plot is a far cry from the sprawling CIA training facility featured in the Hollywood movie "The Recruit."

But PNP Director General Edgar Aglipay said it was comparable in terms of training police intelligence officers to be more professional in gathering and handling information.

"We came up with the project to professionalize our intelligence capability," he told reporters after the inauguration rites attended by former President Fidel Ramos, former chief of the Constabulary, the PNP's forerunner.

"This is where our intelligence officers will be molded when it comes to intelligence operations," Aglipay added.

The school will train 200 aspiring spies per program which could last between one to four months. Half of the trainees will undergo the basic intelligence program, while the rest will pursue the advance course.

The trainees will stay in dormitories in the school compound for the duration of their courses. They will be assigned key PNP units afterwards.

Besides local teachers, Aglipay said, there will be instructors from foreign law enforcement agencies with whom the PNP maintains a regular exchange program.

Good news for Imelda, bad news for Kokoy

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE SUPREME Court dismissed a petition to revive a celebrated criminal case against former First Lady Imelda Marcos, who was accused of graft for sub-leasing a Light Rail Transport Authority lot in 1984.

The graft case became controversial after the high court's Third Division upheld Marcos' conviction in the case in January 1998. However, in a rare turnaround, the court en banc later acquitted her.

In a seven-page resolution on Jan. 18, the tribunal denied the petition of members of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines-Iloilo Chapter to revive the case against Marcos, saying this would constitute double jeopardy.

Meanwhile, the Office of the Ombudsman yesterday asked the high court to revive a graft case against Imelda's brother for receiving P5.8 million in dual compensation when the Marcoses were still in power.

In a 43-page petition, the Ombudsman said the Sandiganbayan gravely abused its discretion when it dismissed the graft case against Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez in June last year.

NEWSBRIEFS

Brawner new CA presiding justice

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has appointed Justice Romeo C. Brawner as the new presiding justice of the Court of Appeals, a Supreme Court statement said yesterday.

Brawner took his oath before Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. on Friday afternoon after acting CA presiding justice, Eubolo Verzola, died that same day due to a lingering heart ailment, the statement said.

Brawner bested two other nominees for the post—CA 5th Division chair Justice Ruben T. Reyes and 7th Division chair Portia C. Alino-Hormachuelos. Brawner, 69, is set to retire on Sept. 17.

Brawner, who hails from Kiangan, Ifugao province, taught law for 24 years and served as a prosecutor from 1964 to 1975. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Foul play ruled out in OFW's death

FOREIGN Affairs officials yesterday ruled out foul play in the Jan. 12 death of a Filipino worker in Saudi Arabia, saying he was alone when his car rammed into a lamp post.

Saudi traffic policemen declared that there was "no foul play" in the death of Suelito Leong and handed Philippine Embassy staff in Riyadh a report indicating that the worker drove into a lamp post in Sinaya Gadim at noon on Jan. 11.

Leong, 40, a technician at the Detecon Al Saudi Co. (Detesad), died from head injuries at the Al Imam General Hospital in Riyadh on Jan. 12, a day after he was brought there unconscious by the police.

His body lies at the hospital morgue and is set to be moved to the Riyadh Medical Complex Mortuary preparatory to its repatriation. *TJ Burgonio*

RP, US forces hold military drill

ANOTHER round of joint training exercises between RP and US forces kicked off yesterday in Nueva Ecija and Pampanga, this time focusing on small unit training skills.

Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual, military information chief, said yesterday that the SUT module of the RP-US Joint Combined Exchange Training of "Exercise Balance Piston 05-1" opened yesterday in Fort Magsaysay in Laur, Nueva Ecija, and the Clark Air Base in Angeles, Pampanga.

Brig. Gen. Benito Ramos, deputy commander of the Special Operations Command (Socom) opened the proceedings in Fort Magsaysay. The Socom is composed of Scout Ranger and Special Forces units from the Philippine Army.

The exercises are held in two phases simultaneously and involve participants from the First Scout Ranger Regiment and the Special Forces Regiment (Airborne) composed of 77 personnel. Also included in the training exercise are seven members of the 19th US Special Forces Group. *Alcuin Papa*

ATTENTION LAWYERS!

The first compliance period of the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) ended last December 31, 2004. Notices of non-compliance will soon be sent out by the MCLE Committee. Pursuant to Bar Matter 850, non-compliance with the MCLE requirement shall be a cause for listing a lawyer as a delinquent member of the IBP and consequently, he shall not be permitted to practice law.

LegisForum, Inc., an accredited MCLE provider, shall conduct its third 36-unit MCLE course in MAKATI CITY on February 19 & 26 and March 5 & 12, 2005. Credits earned can be credited to both the first & second compliance periods.

Avoid being listed as a delinquent member of the IBP and consequently, not permitted to practice law! REGISTER NOW!

Registration form (Please Check✓)

☐ Full 36-unit MCLE course
☐ Half -day MCLE seminar (a.m. sessions: 8:00-12:15; p.m. sessions: 1:00-6:15)

	Date	Credit Units/Subject Per Bar Matter 850	Lecturer
☐	Feb. 19 a.m.	2/Updates in Civil and Criminal Procedure 2/Oral Advocacy	Justice Ruben T. Reyes Justice Magdangal M. De Leon
☐	Feb. 19 p.m.	2/MCLE Prescribed: Rules on Electronic Evidence 3/Updates in Constitutional & Election Law	Atty. Ivan John E. Uy Justice Regalado E. Maambong
☐	Feb. 26 a.m.	2/Trial and Pre- Trial Skills 2/MCLE Prescribed: Environmental Law	Justice Edilberto G. Sandoval Justice Oswaldo D. Agcaoili
☐	Feb. 26 p.m.	2/International Law 3/Legal Ethics	Prof. Harry H. L. Roque, Jr. Justice Hilarion L. Aquino
☐	Mar. 05 a.m.	2/Updates in Criminal Law and Jurisprudence 2/Legal Writing and Oral Advocacy	Justice Diosdado M. Peralta Justice Hugo E. Gutierrez, Jr.
☐	Mar. 05 p.m.	3/Alternative Dispute Resolution 2/Updates in Labor Laws and Jurisprudence	Dean Custodio O. Parlade USEC Josephus B. Jimenez
☐	Mar. 12 a.m.	2/Alternative Dispute Resolution 2/Trial and Pre-Trial Skills	Dean Froilan M. Bacungan Justice Hilarion L. Aquino
☐	Mar. 12 p.m.	3/Legal Ethics 2/MCLE Prescribed: Forrensic, Ballistics, Questioned Documents and Fingerprinting	Justice Jose L. Sabio Justice Regalado E. Maambong

Name of Participant: ____ Roll No.: ____ IBP Chapter: ____
Address: ____
Tel. No.: ____ Fax No: ____ Firm Name: ____

Cut and fax to: (632) 844-3935 or 886-7868

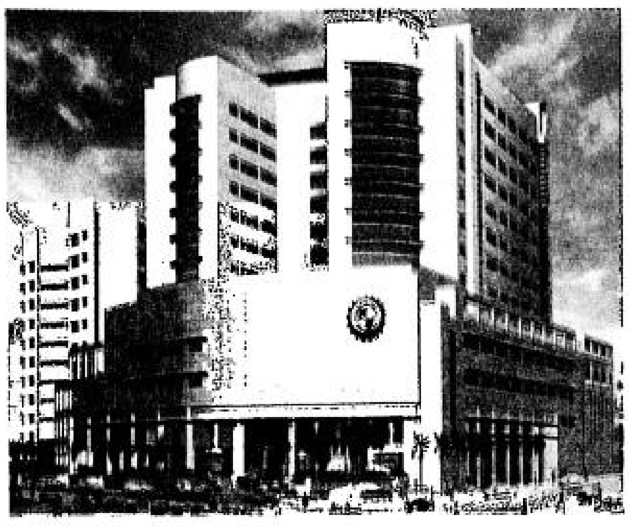
Our venue is conveniently located at the Export Bank Plaza, Senator Gil Puyat Ave. corner Don Chino Roces Ave., Makati City

Attendees shall be provided with: meals (a.m./p.m. snacks & lunch), free-flowing coffee/tea, seminar (computer) bag, seminar kit, lecture materials, certificates of attendance.

For inquiries, please call: DL: (632) 886-7868; TL: (632)844-3871; 844-3819; 844-3906
Call or send SMS at: 0917-8574978 & 0917-8574983 Or you may log on to: www.legisforum.org & register online

LegisForum, Inc. 8th Floor Chatham House, 116 Valero cor. Herrera Sts. Salcedo Village, Makati City

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



ST. LUKE'S AT GLOBAL CITY
St. Luke's Medical Center will hold the groundbreaking rites today for a new P6.5-billion hospital in the Fort Bonifacio Global City. St. Luke's president and CEO Jose F. G. Ledesma said the 600-bed hospital will create more than 2,500 new jobs for nonmedical staff, in addition to doctors and other allied healthcare professionals. When completed in 2008, St. Luke's will be operating two world-class hospitals in Metro Manila.

PNP hunting 23 Indon JI operatives in South

By Christian V. Esguerra

AUTHORITIES are hunting 23 Jemaah Islamiyah members believed hiding in central Mindanao, after discounting their threat to the country.

The Philippine National Police isn't worried about the JI operatives—all Indonesians—since they are "stranded" in the country and are practically incapable of launching terrorist attacks, according to PNP intelligence director Robert Delfin.

"They receive no funding, so how can they move?" Delfin said in an interview with reporters. "Right now, they're more concerned with hiding from both the police and the military than attacking."

The military had earlier pegged the number of JI members in Mindanao at 40. Police could not explain, however, how the number went down to 23.

What is clear is the terrorists are holed up on Mt. Kararaw, at the boundary of Maguindanao and Lanao, which is considered a stronghold of the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Delfin said the 23 operatives had lost contact with their leaders in Indonesia following the arrest of key JI leaders.

Among these were Zulkifli, who was arrested in Malaysia several months ago, and Taufek Refke, the group's alleged finance officer, who was caught in Mindanao early last year.

The arrests cut the flow of funds from Indonesia to the JI cell in Mindanao, Delfin said.

The JI, the Southeast Asia-based affiliate of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network, maintains a "mantique" or cluster of operations that includes Malaysia and Indonesia, its country of origin.

Mindanao is part of the cluster, being primarily a training ground for prospective bombers, intelligence officials said.

In December 2003, at least 10 JI bombers reportedly graduated from training facilities in MILF territories. The MILF has denied the allegation.

If the 23 Indonesian terrorists were planning an attack, Delfin said, they could only do so "in coordination with local terrorists."

"They're dependent on their local contacts," he said, referring to the Abu Sayyaf terror group and renegade MILF members.

Tracker teams from the PNP Intelligence Group and the Armed Forces of the Philippines are now conducting separate operations to arrest the 23 Indonesians, Delfin said.

"They're scattered, that's why the military is bombing them," he added.

On Friday, officials said five Islamic militants, including at least one JI member, were believed killed in a military air strike on their hideout in a Maguindanao marshland the previous day.

Army spokesperson Col. Franklin del Prado said among those believed to have been in the area were Abu Sayyaf chief Khadaffy Janjalani and at least three Indonesian JI members, including Dulmatin, who allegedly played a key role in the Bali bombings.

Dulmatin was believed killed in the raid.

With a report from AP

Wanted Abu member shot dead in Basilan

GOVERNMENT troops shot dead on Sunday a member of the Abu Sayyaf Muslim group who was allegedly involved in the abduction of three Americans and numerous Filipinos in 2001.

Abduljaid Awalal was shot dead on Sunday in Basilan island after he and two of his companions resisted arrest and fired on a group of soldiers, Col. Rey Ferrer said.

He said Awalal's two companions, both believed to be Abu Sayyaf members, escaped and are being pursued by soldiers.

Members of the Abu Sayyaf, which is allegedly linked to the al-Qaida terror network, kidnapped three American tourists and numerous Filipinos from an island resort and hid them in the jungles of Basilan in 2001.

Two of the Americans later died in Abu Sayyaf captivity while the third was rescued by soldiers.

It was not clear if Awalal, who had a P150,000 bounty on his head, was directly involved in snatching the hostages or if he merely helped guard and hide them in Basilan.

Awalal was captured earlier but escaped in a mass jailbreak in Basilan last April. *AFP*

PHILIP MORRIS 100's
PREMIUM TASTE PREMIUM PRIZES!
Congra
Faisal Al
for winni
BMW
Sony Ericsson T630 Phones
Sony Digital Cameras
Sony Discmans
HURRY! YOU CAN STILL REDEEM THESE PREMIUM PRIZES UNTIL FEBRUARY 28, 2005!
Call 736-7222 (Metro Manila) or 1-800-10-7367222 (Outside Metro Manila) for redemption procedures.
Philip Morris promoters will also be in 7-Eleven outlets every Friday and Saturday for the redemption of minor prizes.
Open only to smokers 18 years and above.
Photos may vary from actual units • Per DOH-BFAD Permit No.

Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health

NEW!
Vita A.C.E.
Spa in a Facial
Experience a facial treatment that both moisturizes and protects the skin with high concentrations of vitamins A, C, and E.
- Vitamin A prevents ageing and helps reduce wrinkle-formation.
- Vitamin C lightens skin and defends against free radicals.
- Vitamin E increases moisture retention and improves skin texture.

Vita A.C.E. promotes rapid absorption of valuable natural oils to stimulate moisture, rescuing dull, rough skin, making it look fresh, soft and supple. Call Facial Care Centre now and let our skincare experts treat your skin to Vita A.C.E.
Facial care centre
CALL 892-SKIN (7546)
Where Beautiful Skin Happens
www.facialcarecentre.com.ph
MAKATI ORTIGAS QUEZON CITY SHAW ALABANG BINONDO CONGRESSIONAL PAMPANGA (961-3404) CEBU (233-7631)

We are proud to announce the acquisition by

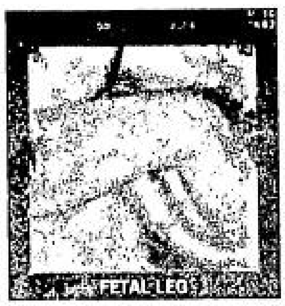
MADONNA AND CHILD HOSPITAL

CARMEN, CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY

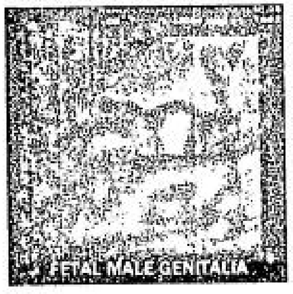
of the New State-of-the-Art
PHILIPS Ultrasound System

The HDI 4000 "4D" and HDI 5000 Sono CT XRES Ultrasound Systems

31 WEEKS FETUS



FETAL LEG

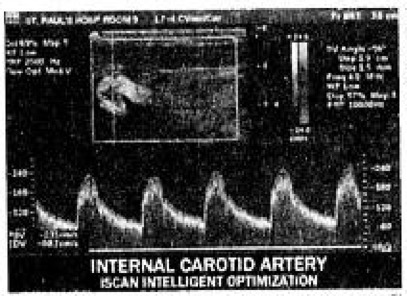


FETAL MALE GENITALIA

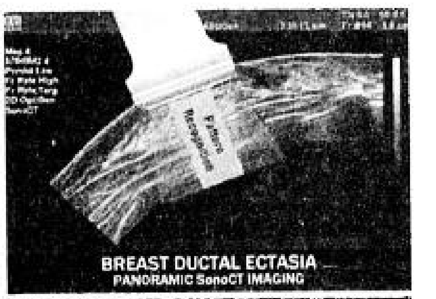
FETAL FACE

33 WEEKS
BC Women's Hospital
OB
3D5-3
MI 0.9
Tlb 0.0

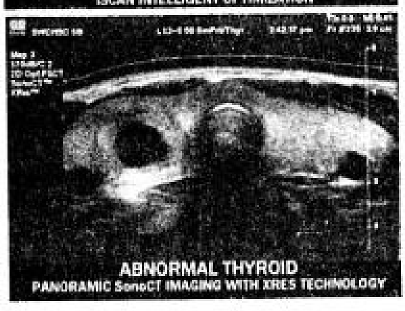
VICTORY FOR " 4D " ULTRASOUND



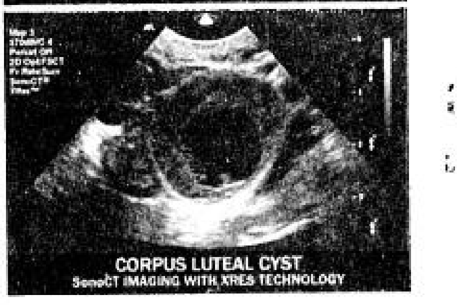
INTERNAL CAROTID ARTERY
ISCAN INTELLIGENT OPTIMIZATION



BREAST DUCTAL ECTASIA
PANORAMIC SonoCT IMAGING



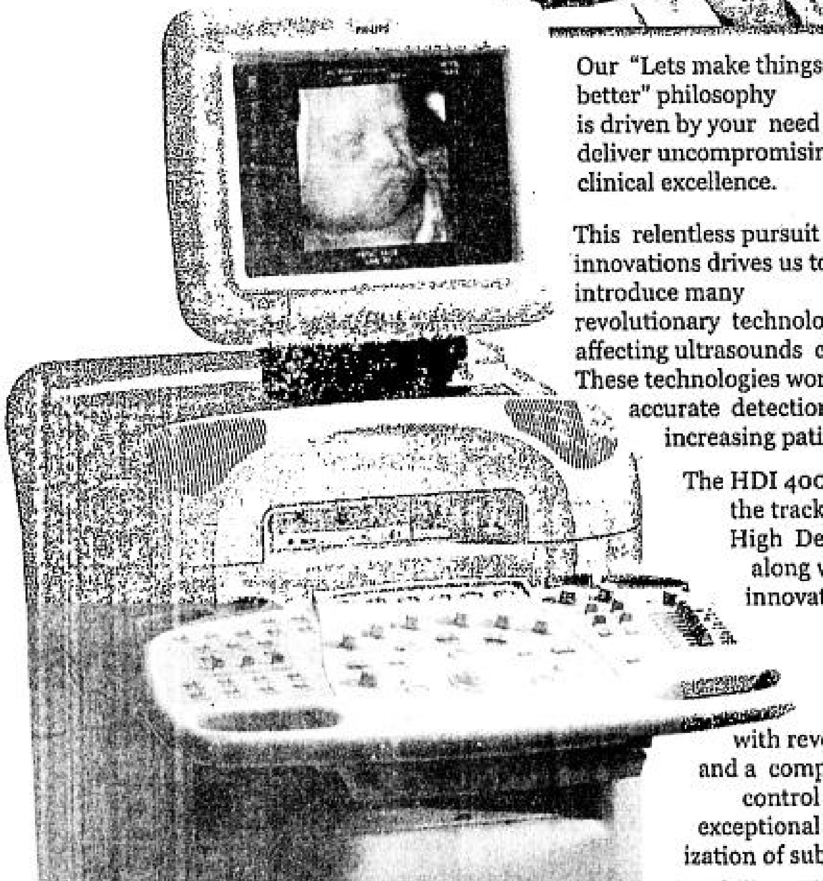
ABNORMAL THYROID
PANORAMIC SonoCT IMAGING WITH XRES TECHNOLOGY

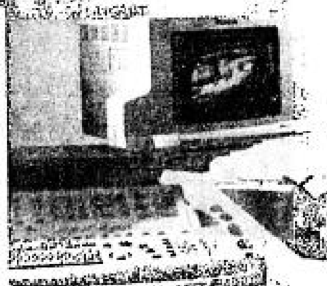


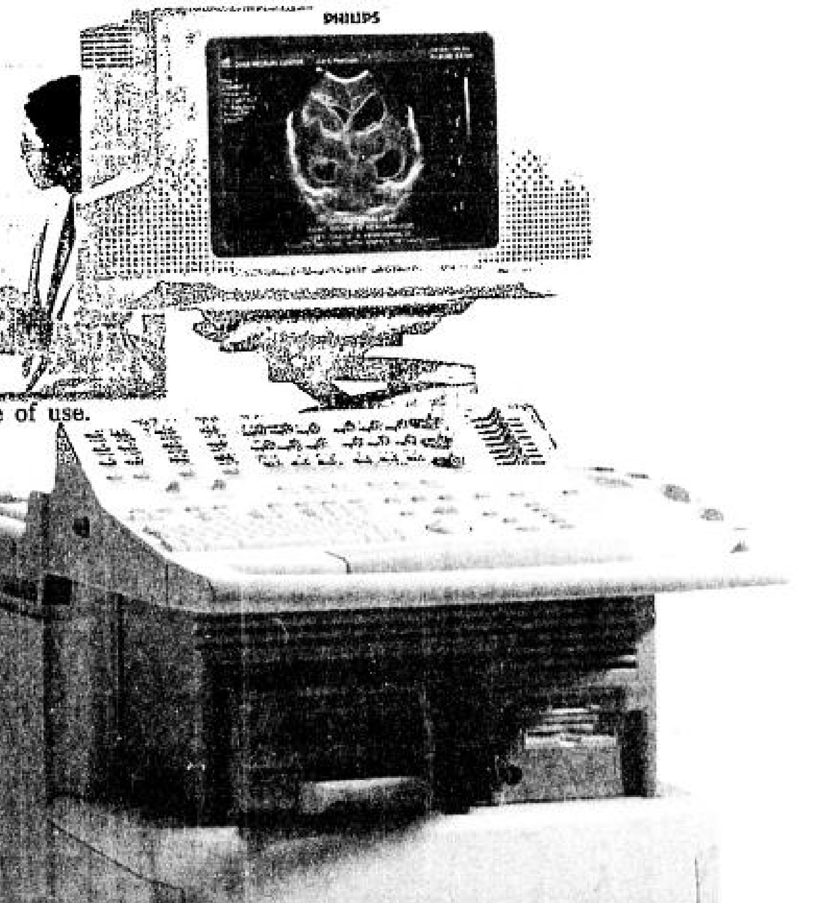
CORPUS LUTEAL CYST
SonoCT IMAGING WITH XRES TECHNOLOGY

THE PHILIPS HDI 4000 '4D" Ultrasound System

THE NEW PHILIPS HDI 5000 Sono CT XRES High Premium Ultrasound System







Our "Lets make things better" philosophy is driven by your need to deliver uncompromising clinical excellence.

This relentless pursuit of innovations drives us to introduce many revolutionary technologies affecting ultrasounds clinical utility , versatility and ease of use. These technologies work in harmony to promote early, accurate detection while helping you meet increasing patient demands.....

The HDI 4000 ultrasound system brings the track record of Philips' patented High Definition Imaging to your lab along with superb 4D imaging and innovative date management tools.

HDI technology combines an all digital broadband beamformer with revolutionary software control and a complete portfolio of advanced control features to create images of exceptional clarity, aiding in the visualization of subtle anatomy and pathology.

The Philips HDI 5000 top-of-the-line multispecialty system leads the way in premium performance ultrasound offering extreme processing power and revolutionary technologies. The system is capable of performing billions of concurrent computations, supporting multiple processing functions in real time. Now processing up to 9,216 channels per frame with 170 db dynamic range. Revolutionary technologies, such as Philips Sono CT Real time compound Imaging and Philips XRES Visualization Technology, refine image quality to an unprecedented level. Exams are streamlined with iSCAN Intelligent Optimization . The super computing power of the HDI 5000 system brings together these two complementary technologies producing images with extraordinary definition and clarity, advancing ultrasound to new extremes and elevating diagnostic case and consistency.

With complete Cardiovascular software package with Stress Echo protocol.
Multiple applications for radiology , cardiology , Ob gyne , perinatology , neurology and urology etc....,

Distributed by:

Congratulations to our principal partner MADONNA AND CHILD HOSPITAL, Cagayan De Oro City.

FMEI
FERNANDO MEDICAL ENTERPRISES, INC.
"Your Link to the Latest Healthcare Technology"

MANILA (Main Office)
3/F 88 Place Bldg , 1488 E Rodriguez Sr., Ave.,
New Manila Quezon City, Philippines
Tel Nos (632) 727-1521 • 727-1532
Fax Nos (632) 727-1489
E-mail fmei@pacific.net.ph

CEBU
Rivergate Commercial Complex II , 49-A
Gen Maxilom Ave., Cebu City, Philippines
Tel. Nos. (6332) 256-3243
Fax Nos (6332) 256-3244
E-mail fmei-c@pacific.net.ph

ILOILO
204-D Alfonlri Townhouse
Advancenia St., Molo
Iloilo City, Philippines
Tel Nos. (6333) 509-6046

DAVAO
Unit 4 Lacor Bldg , Quirino Ave ,
Davao City, Philippines
Tel Nos (6382) 224-3799
Fax Nos. (6382) 224-3796
E-mail fmei@philwebinc.com

US losing war on terror, security experts tell forum

By Isagani M. Yambot
Publisher

DAVOS, Switzerland—The terrorists are in effect winning the worldwide war on terrorism.

- In terms of perception, the United States has already lost the war in Iraq.
- Bioterrorism—the use of infectious microorganisms against a civilian population—is the most dangerous security threat facing the world today.

Under the rules on security matters discussed at the World Economic Forum sessions here, the terrorism experts may not be identified but their statements may be reported.

The experts were asked: Is the world winning the war on terrorism? One said: "For the terrorists, not losing is winning. In that sense, they are winning." The others were inclined to agree with him.

Another expert said the buzzword is no longer "terrorism" but "terrorisms" because a great variety of terrorist groups have sprung up.

The experts painted a generally bleak picture of the outlook on terrorism this year. They said more people died in terrorist attacks in 2004 than in any year since 9/11.

They said the world could expect the following in the coming years:

- More terrorist attacks. The US war in Iraq has become a clarion call for "jihad" or holy war.
- The photos of US soldiers' brutal treatment of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison have become recruitment posters for the terrorists.
- Recruitment and replenishment efforts by al-Qaida, the world's most dreaded terrorist organization, have not stopped. Al-Qaida has shown remarkable resilience in setting up associate organizations all over the world.
- The resolution of the Palestinian issue, a successful political transition in Iraq, rapprochement with Iran—none of these will defuse the threat of terrorism. The experts said Osama bin Laden's objective is not these but regime change in Saudi Arabia.
- There is the danger of the "blowback" effect in foreign jihadists now fighting with the insurgents in Iraq returning to their homes in the Middle East and Europe to carry out terrorist attacks.

The experts said the US military presence in Iraq and other Middle East countries and the overthrow of Saddam Hussein have caused a sharp rise in anti-Americanism in the Islamic world.

In an earlier session where the not-for-attribution rule was not imposed, experts said bioterrorism had become the most dangerous security threat today because the needed technology is now available even to the smallest terror groups.

US Senate Majority Leader William H. Frist recalled that the United States had a traumatic brush with terrorism when anthrax attacks on the US Senate and other targets caused widespread panic.

"I believe we will see a major biological attack sometime within the next 10 years," he said. The agent, he said, could come from one of three potential groups: (1) pathogens, such as smallpox or anthrax, that have been "weaponized"; (2) germs that have been genetically modified to increase their lethality, and (3) perhaps the most frightening—"designer" diseases engineered for a specific delivery mechanism or target population.

GMA lauds PNP for gains in war on terror

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday congratulated the police for preventing attacks by terrorists and crime gangs, while also urging them to erase the force's corrupt image.

Speaking at the 14th anniversary of the Philippine National Police, Arroyo said the police have many times thwarted "the evil designs of terrorists even before they could act."

In a recent case, police defused a bomb planted on a bus on Christmas Eve in Manila's busy Quiapo district. Police said the bomb's design was similar to those used in the past by Muslim extremists.

The government is fighting the al-Qaida-linked Muslim extremist Abu Sayyaf group and the communist New People's Army, both on the US and European Union terror lists.

Arroyo also commended police for capturing eight alleged kidnappers on Sunday. She said kidnapping for ransom, which has driven away investors and victimized mostly wealthy ethnic Chinese, "is now at a record low."

She also lauded an antidrug campaign, which has cut the illegal trade by half and encouraged a "new aggressive drive" against "cybersex dens" that exploit Filipino women and children.

However, Arroyo urged police to improve their image by ending corruption within the force. *AP*

Less fat in, more fat out.

All the tea in China won't burn your fat and remove your bulge handles if you keep absorbing fat from the food you eat daily. Instead, try C-Lium©Fibre it helps clean your digestive system and simultaneously assist in reducing weight by naturally absorbing fat from food and eliminates fat before it becomes stored fat or "bilbil". C-Lium©Fibre is a natural fat absorber.

C-Lium©Fibre is 100% Natural & Organic,
no additives, no sweeteners, no artificial flavours, no cholesterol, gluten free.

helps eliminate constipation
helps reduce cholesterol
helps reduce the risk of heart disease
helps blood sugar control
helps prevent sickness

National Shopper's Choice 2004 Award
No.1 Natural & Organic Fiber Supplement

Psyllium husk is endorsed by:
National Heart Foundation
American Heart Foundation
THE SOUTH BEACH DIET
HALAL
SAFE QUALITY FOOD 2000 CERTIFIED 9090 01310 HACCP Approved

NATIONAL SHOPPERS' CHOICE 2004 AWARD
AWARD-REWARD
Get 33% more... now 200g
Plus 3 Sachets FREE SAME PRICE BONUS!!!
Thanks for your support
NO.1 NATURAL & ORGANIC FIBER SUPPLEMENT

C-Lium©Fibre
For a healthier stomach.

AVAILABLE FROM: mercury drug
NAKASISIGURO GAMOT AY LAGING BAGO
AND OTHER LEADING DRUGSTORES

Tel.: (632) 5246549 E-mail: cliumfibre@pacific.net.ph Website: www.cliumfibre.com

RECOMMENDED BY GASTROENTEROLOGISTS, MEDICAL AND HEALTH PRACTITIONERS
TXT 4 INFO: LUZON 09167410346 · VISAYAS 09102932635 · MINDANAO [illegible]

SLIMMERS WORLD

ONLY P40 PER DAY on Full Programmes.

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP, NO INTEREST!
SAVE up to P300,000. No monthly dues!

PLUS! FREE! PERSONAL TRAINING for all enrollees today.

NON-SURGICAL FACE & BODY TREATMENT
Restore skin, face & body with our exclusive Face & Body treatments.
ONLY P300
per treatment to get you started.
SKIN HOTLINE 8871331 CELLPHONE 09164099312

KAREN VILLANUEVA Lost 32 lbs. on her programme.
CARLOS MORALES Lost 26 lbs. on his programme.
BIO DYNAMICS can give you the same result as the 2004 GREAT BODIES WINNERS
BUILD OR LOSE! ARMS 10 - 20 cm
BIO DYNAMICS
Our medically proven weight loss system developed and researched at Tufts University, USA. Lose 10 - 20 lbs of fat in 6 weeks WITH A MONEY BACK GUARANTEE!
ABS 20 - 50 cm
FOREARMS 5 - 10 cm
THIGHS 20 - 50 cm

CALL US: FITNESS HOTLINE 8873533 CELLPHONE 091-SLIMMERS (75466377)
www.slimmersworld.com.ph
inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

ALABANG	BINONDO	CALOOCAN	CEBU	GREENHILLS	LEGASPI VILL.	MALATE	MEGAMALL	PASAY ROAD	PASIG	SM NORTH	SUBIC	TRAFALGAR
Gemma 2F RCBC Bldg. Zapote-Alabang Rd. 809-0396	Thelma/Jannah 3F Regina Garden II 242-1312	Sherry/Bheng 6F Panorama Bldg., Rizal Ave. 365-7653	Ramil Basement 1&2 Ayala Center 231-3254	Bianca 27F Atlanta Ctr. #31 Annapolis 726-6505	Lani GF Zeta Bldg. Salcedo St. 893-8935	Daisy 6F Adriatico Square Adriatico ,Manila 536-0619	Sheila/Jenny 2F Bldg. A Mandaluyong 631-3869	Cher/Maan 1032 Arnaiz Ave. cor. Hernandez St. 887-1335 09178515920	Fiona/Muffet Restaurant Ave. Marcos Hi-way 681-5333	Mitch 2F Annex Bldg. Quezon City 929-5429	Beth 2F Times Square Rizal Hi-way 252-6514	Ice 28F Trafalgar Plaza H V dela Costa 814-0138

SKIN CENTER: ALABANG 7750586/09183912510 BINONDO 2420728/09178224399 CALOOCAN 3657653 GREENHILLS 7261526/09182112732 MALATE 5259891/09213173415 MEGAMALL 6377543/09162479753 PASAY RD. 8873530/09165320785 PASIG 6473814/09275341314

Tagum publisher shot, wounded in attack

From page A1

journalists from violence.

Police could not say if the shooting of Maximo Quindao, editor and publisher of the Tagum-based Mindanao Trucknews, had something to do with his being a journalist or was spurred by other motives.

Quindao, 46, suffered four bullet wounds in the right chest when he was shot by two motorcycle-riding men outside his Tagum office on Saturday.

An international fact-finding mission on Sunday released a report saying that a "widespread culture of violence" often condoned by government officials was to blame for the murders of journalists in the Philippines—said to be the second deadliest country for media people, after Iraq.

The findings by the mission organized by the Brussels-based International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and its local affiliate were disputed by Malacañang yesterday.

"We do not condone a culture of violence," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

'We will protect them'

"The Philippine press is one of the freest in the world and we are determined to protect media practitioners from any form of harassment in the performance of their role as watchdogs of the government," Bunye added.

A senior Philippine National Police officer, who an IFJ mission member said had uttered harsh remarks against media people, strongly denied making the statement attributed to him.

"I never said anything like that. They just made that allegation simply because they couldn't find any mud to throw at me," Senior Supt. Efren Yebra, police director of Camarines Norte, told the INQUIRER.

"They are now riding on the issue of journalists' slays after I got hold of a blue book containing at least 15 names of media men involved in the operation of *video karera* in Camarines. These 15 reporters are affiliated with five local radio stations. Three of them had been charged with illegal gambling," Yebra said.

Most cases 'solved'

Rowena Carranza-Paraan, a Filipino member of the IFJ fact-finding mission, said Yebra had been quoted as saying in December that "when I see media people, it seems that I suddenly have the urge to kill."

Paraan said Yebra later explained that he was speaking only in jest.

In a statement, Bunye maintained that most cases of journalist killings in the country had been solved.

"The killings of journalists have been acted upon and most of them have been resolved by the law enforcement authorities," he said.

No arming of journalists

Explaining what he meant, Bunye said: "The definition of the Philippine National Police is as soon as you have identified the culprits and you have filed the appropriate case in court, they consider that solved because there are court cases that could drag on for years. But the important thing is these cases would be pursued to their logical conclusion.

"The cases will be prosecuted firmly in the courts until justice is done," he added. "It's not enough that these cases are filed. We have to ensure that the witnesses stick to their testimonies and that they will not relent in their pursuit of justice through the courts."

Bunye said Malacañang wanted to institutionalize the cooperation between the PNP's Task Force Newsman and the National Press Club and other media organizations in order to pursue the cases.

Arming journalists is not the solution to the killings, he said.

"I guess, just like anybody else, any ordinary citizen, we'll have to take normal precautions," Bunye said.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez defended the administration against accusations that it was not doing enough to protect journalists in the country.

Gonzalez said the IFJ should also realize that not all of the more than 50 or 60 journalists killed in the Philippines since 1986 were murdered due to their work in media.

During Estrada's time

Gonzalez said that compared to the ousted Estrada administration, the present administration was more vigilant in protecting press freedom and journalists.

"Mr. Estrada tried to close down the INQUIRER and the Manila Times. [Manila Times owner] Robina Gokongwei had to bring him flowers," he said.

"This administration is more lenient and is trying its best to cooperate with media people," he added.

Gonzalez said the IFJ should consider that some of the murdered journalists were killed for reasons other than those related to their media work.

Killed for love

"I know of a journalist who was killed because of a love triangle. The international journalists should realize that some of those killed were killed not because they were journalists," he said.

"They should look at the reasons for the killings since some were not related to [the victims'] newspaper work ," he said.

Nevertheless, the government was trying its best to solve these killings, Gonzalez said.

"We've offered protection to witnesses but in some cases, no witnesses have come forward to help," Gonzalez said.

He said government officials who threatened media people, even in jest, should be investigated.

"You do not just issue those threats. You would have to be a fool to issue threats considering the country's situation," he said.

Probe welcomed

PNP spokesperson Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil said the police organization "welcomes any investigation of any of our officials."

Bataoil was reacting to a separate call from opposition Sen. Alfredo Lim for Yebra to be investigated for his remarks.

"Rest assured that the PNP is looking into the matter. But we should also give Senior Supt. Efren Yebra the chance to air his side on the matter," Bataoil said.

Call from Congress

Anakpawis party-list Rep. Rafael Mariano urged the House committees on public information, justice, and public order and security to immediately set for discussion a House resolution calling for an investigation into the killing of journalists and the failure of the judiciary, the police and other law enforcement agencies to solve the cases.

A total of 40 congressmen have endorsed the resolution, which was principally authored by Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla, committee chair, and Bayan Muna party-list Representatives Satur Ocampo, Teddy Casiño and Joel Virador. ***With reports from TJ Burgonio, Cynthia D. Balana and Christian V. Esguerra***

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE FILIPINO PEOPLE AFTER FOUR YEARS OF EDSA II

When EDSA II happened we still believed in the presidency, that is why we collectively replaced the incumbent president through people power. Then we still relied on Congress, that is why we all supported the walk-out that aborted the impeachment trial at the time the second envelope was not opened. Then we looked at the Supreme Court as the last bastion of democracy that is why we jointly accepted its installation of Gloria Arroyo as Erap's replacement.

Four years after EDSA II under the watch of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, the Office of the President has become inutile and repulsive due to the unanswered charges of corruption, immorality and misgovernance deodorized by influential forces in media, the church and big business. Congress has rendered itself impotent with the surrender of its powers to both the Judiciary and the Executive in many instances as in the impeachment case against the Chief Justice and in the issue of the pork barrel. The Supreme Court is viewed as the extension and rubber stamp of the Executive which was clearly evident in the PIATCO Case. In short the institutions we have relied on to sustain our democratic way of life have crumbled.

Worse, the alternative entities we used to bank on at the time of EDSA I and II, to initiate reforms, to ensure freedom or enforce morality in our society have likewise capitulated to corruption or to intimidation. Many NGO'S are now considered suspect or corrupt after the Code-NGO scandal. The hierarchical church except for a very courageous few is identified with the elite. Leading media institutions or personalities bar a handful, have become part and parcel of the corruption and immorality we want to weed out. Almost all of the traditional opposition are in reality one with the administration and many times, fiscalizing is used only to gain concessions for themselves from Gloria or Mike Arroyo. That is why very recently some of them even used our organization's name, the People's Consultative Assembly, which has never wavered in its fight against corruption, immorality and misgovernance to make it appear they are part of it when they are not, to sow confusion among our ranks, or undertake a demolition job for the administration. That is why too the series of efforts to effect genuine reforms or total transformation these past months or years have been aborted, because the instruments of the elite and the deep penetration agents of Malacañang have subverted the struggle for genuine transformation and diabolically infiltrated the ranks of our people who wish to remove the manacles of hunger and poverty currently crippling our nation.

What then do we do with the present situation … where more than 15 million Filipinos go to bed hungry and wake up to more hunger ? Where 3000 hopeless Filipinos daily leave for abroad and indirectly retard our national development due to the loss of about a million skilled or educated Filipinos yearly? Where 400+ elite Filipinos are billionaires and 40,000+ more are millionaires while about 70 million Filipinos have no substantial food, shelter, clothing or medicine? Where our debts increased Php1.4Trillion from Diosado Macapagal to FVR, to Php1.8Trillion during Erap's time and to Php5.1Trillion the first three years of Gloria Arroyo while Gloria Arroyo has no substantial achievement to justify all these debts except for the Pidal bank accounts in Mexico, in the United States, in Hongkong, in Taipei, etc? To make matters worse, despite her failure in governance and billions of the people's money lost, Gloria Arroyo has the gall to further increase the people's tax burden. Don't we realize that while there is a nominal figurehead in Malacañang, there is no longer a genuine national leader attending to the cries and basic needs of our people especially the poor!

Our national situation is out of control and is in desperate need of emergency treatment but those who have the capacity to help are either oblivious or overwhelmed. Thus it is inevitable that that only a joint civilian and military response to our people's problems can effectively remedy the present national situation. While there are some problems with a few military personnel at the top, majority of our men in uniform condemn corruption within and outside their ranks and stand by their constitutional mandate to protect the people and the State. We therefore ask all of you who care for our country and our people, to respond and act now, with courage, conviction and sacrifice. One hundred six years ago our ancestors fought for our independence. Eighteen years ago we fought for the restoration of justice, freedom and democracy. Four years ago we fought against corruption and immorality. Today let us fight against the disintegration of our nation. Let us all join forces - for our national survival, for the restoration of our morality and Christian values and for the prosperity and peace of future generations of Filipinos.

PEOPLE'S CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY - KOALISYON
February 01, 2005

ADVT

Free cultural training . . .

From page A1

youth from the 28 poorest provinces identified by the National Anti-Poverty Commission will train in dance, rondalla music, chorale singing, and the literary, theater and visual arts, as well as martial arts.

The "novel program" is supported by the NAPC and United Nations Resident Coordinator Deborah Landey.

"We have this traditional mind-set that culture is only for the elite and the rich. We're changing this notion with the program," Imelda Nicolas, NAPC secretary general and lead convenor, said yesterday in a press conference in Malacañang.

NCCA Executive Director and Presidential Adviser on Culture Cecil Guidote-Alvarez called the program a form of "cultural care-giving."

"Cultural care-giving is caring for the poor through the arts. Not just (in terms of) dollars and cents, but by investing in human capability and talents," Alvarez said.

NCCA teams will work in tandem with local officials and private organizations to give free lessons in Aurora, Quezon, Ifugao, Mountain Province, Abra, Isabela, Camarines Norte, Sorsogon, Mindoro, Masbate, Romblon, Marinduque, Capiz, Antique, Bohol, Eastern Samar, Leyte, Biliran, Camiguin, Lanao del Sur, Agusan del Sur, Maguindanao, Sarangani, Sultan Kudarat, Zamboanga del Norte, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi.

The target audience are street children, out-of-school youth, disabled and indigenous children in the poor provinces.

The program will be available during the whole month of February because it is the month of love, Alvarez said.

"Eventually we hope there will be a Kalahi rondalla or a chorale of street kids," she added.

The well

Asked how training children in the arts could alleviate poverty, Alvarez said this would unleash the creativity of the poor, hone talents and open doors for better opportunities.

"It's like discovering a well inside them—they are the wealth of our country. These people will no longer be desperate, they won't steal or try to kill themselves (instead, they will have) a culture of satisfaction and peace," she explained.

Alvarez cited the lead musician in her Earthsavers Movement, a disabled boy who won a scholarship to the United States and was now earning P20,000 a month.

"Before, he was like a prisoner in his mother's house. (Because of his disability, he was) just washing dishes," she said.

Rich in spirit

The use of indigenous and recycled materials will also be encouraged in visual arts training.

Alvarez noted that indigenous children were good craftsmen who could earn big bucks if they were given the proper training and assistance.

Nicolas agreed, saying that poor children would be trained in "indigenous arts—not in Western-type arts—to create the national identity."

"We always think of the poor as poor in material wealth, but they are rich in spirit. The indigenous people specially, because of their culture," she said.

"Besides paving opportunities for livelihood, training the poor in dance, music and visual arts would give them back their dignity and power. This is the power to create, to be expressive and become self-reliant, so they could rise from the oppressive forces of poverty."

Spreading good values

She said "convergence of services" was the government's strategy in alleviating poverty.

"I'm happy to note that after 14 years, the NCCA is focusing on the poor in terms of what they call care-giving cultural services for the poor," Nicholas said.

Anna Senga, representing the United Nations Development Program, said the agency wholeheartedly supports the cultural care-giving program.

"If we develop this project—if we reach out to the poor communities—we will be able to disseminate values on good governance, concern for the environment and respect for human rights. That's why we see this as an important medium for social transformation," Senga said.

IN THE KNOW

GROSS domestic product or GDP is the total value of all finished goods and services produced for the marketplace during a given year or some other period of time, within a country's borders. It measures what had been produced by Filipinos and foreigners within the Philippines. "Domestic" is part of the term because the measure does not include imports and the output of Filipinos outside of the country's borders, such as remittances of overseas Filipino workers. The "gross" part means that it does not include depreciation or other contra-asset accounts.

Gross national product or GNP is another measure of a country's productivity. It covers the income of all Filipinos, whether earned in the Philippines or abroad.

While the GDP emphasizes production in the country, GNP measures the output supplied by Filipinos regardless of where they live or earn their income. The difference, called net factor income received from abroad, includes remittances from OFWs.

At right are the latest GDP tables released by the government: PDI RESEARCH

GDP by industrial origin

Industry	Growth rates(%) (2003)	Growth rates(%) (2004)
Agriculture, fishery & forestry	3.8	4.9
Industry	3.8	5.3
Services	5.8	7.3
GDP	4.7	6.1
GNP	5.6	6.1

GDP by expenditure shares

Expenditure	Growth rates(%) (2003)	Growth rates(%) (2004)
Personal consumption	5.3	5.8
Government consumption	0.5	-0.8
Capital formation	0.1	12.7
Exports	4.4	14.0
Less: Imports	10.2	6.3
GDP	4.7	6.1
GNP	5.6	6.1

SOURCE: NATIONAL COORDINATION STATISTICAL BOARD

'Super lucky' BIR official dismissed

From page A1

ment's lifestyle check and because his answer wasn't convincing enough, BIR Assistant Commissioner Edwin R. Abella was ordered dismissed from the service by Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo.

In a nine-page "supplemental order," Marcelo noted that Abella "submitted documentary proof from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office showing that he and his wife had won millions of pesos in the 2002 Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Draws."

"However, since said documentation showed that respondent and his wife won twice in a row within a period of just two (2) weeks, said fact is clearly suspicious and mind-boggling, considering its statistical improbability," Marcelo said in the Jan. 28 dismissal order.

Abella was charged with dishonesty for acquiring vast amounts of money and properties manifestly out of proportion to his salary and other lawful means.

Ombudsman investigators found that based on Abella's statement of assets and liabilities, his net worth grew from P3.8 million in 1999 to P4.3 million in 2000, to P4.6 million in 2001 and P8.4 million in 2002, despite the fact that he and his wife had no business interests.

Among his properties is a P10-million house in Xavierville Subdivision in Loyola Heights, Quezon City, where he and his family reside.

In his counter-affidavit, Abella claimed he was only renting the house for P25,000 a month from GAR Ventures and Holdings Inc.

A check by Ombudsman investigators showed that the company did not maintain an office or had any employees. Its address was "care of" a Makati law firm, "which only fuels suspicion as to the true nature of said corporation," Marcelo said.

The company had a "paid-in capital" of P100,000, which only showed that it could not afford to acquire or develop the P10-million property. Neither did the company have a business permit nor an income tax return.

Ombudsman investigators also expressed doubts that the house, given its location, could be leased for only P25,000.

"Further negating the lease assertion is the fact that (Abella) has his own house and lot; thus, there was no need for him to rent a house for his family unless he is the real owner of the second house," Marcelo said.

All these circumstances "constitute substantial evidence" that the Xavierville property is owned by Abella and GAR Ventures is a "mere front," he said.

Abella was also found to own five residential properties in Quezon City, two agricultural properties in Pangasinan, an equity in a townhouse, and pasture land in Norzagaray, Bulacan.

In his order, Marcelo said Abella's 18-year-old son Merrick was discovered to have purchased an expensive sport utility vehicle, leading the Ombudsman to note that a "mere student and dependent of his parents, (without) any legitimate source of income" could not purchase a high-end vehicle.

RP economy . . .

From page A1

el to the country's "growth engine."

A statement by NSCB Secretary General Romulo Virola said the services sector was the best performer, growing 7.3 percent last year after a 5.8 percent growth in 2003.

"Services, which accounted for about 47 percent of total GDP, contributed the most to GDP growth with 3.37 percentage points. All of its sub-sectors posted accelerated growths in 2004. Top contributors to growth were trade, transportation, communications and storage, and private services," the NSCB statement said.

Industrial growth rose to 5.3 percent from 3.8 percent in 2003. Industry accounted for about 33 percent of GDP and contributed 1.77 percentage points to the total GDP growth rate.

Agriculture, fishery and forestry grew 4.9 percent, up from 3.8 percent in 2003.

Big surprise

Even so, Guillermo Luz, executive director of the influential Makati Business Club, said the growth in agriculture had been "the big surprise," of the year, adding that this would greatly benefit the 30 percent of the workforce who are dependent on that sector.

Luz said the growth rate was quite good, considering that "last year was perceived to be a bit of a difficult year."

According to Luz, the country "had so many events" that could have hurt the economy, such as a series of destructive typhoons and uncertainty following last year's tumultuous presidential election which, according to the opposition, Ms Arroyo had won by cheating.

Investors reacted favorably to the news with the Philippine stock market's main index rising 0.25 percent to 2,019.56, its highest level in nearly five years.

Thomas Crouch, country director of Asian Development Bank, described as "very encouraging" the country's GDP growth for the third successive year since 2001, when growth was only half of last year's.

"Together with other positive developments since late last year, this provides a platform to move from the recent fields of frustration to oases of opportunity that undoubtedly exist," Crouch said in a statement.

Not so rosy outlook

Analysts, however, said the government faced the tough challenge of achieving high economic growth this year.

"That would be a hard act to follow in 2005 because we are faced with higher interest rates and higher inflation and a possible slowdown in the global economy," said Jose Vistan, an analyst at AB Capital Securities Inc..

A Reuters poll last week showed economic growth is expected to moderate to 5.0 percent this year, lower than the government target of 5.3 percent to 6.3 percent.

"Clearly, the budget deficit remains the biggest challenge," said David Cohen, director for economic forecasting at Action Economics in Singapore.

"The deficit came in smaller than the government estimate in 2004 but that's in a favorable environment. It will be more difficult in 2005, because it requires some progress in the reform measures being proposed by government," Cohen said.

The government is battling chronic budget deficits, tax evasion and corruption as it pushes a series of reforms designed to generate an extra P80 billion each year.

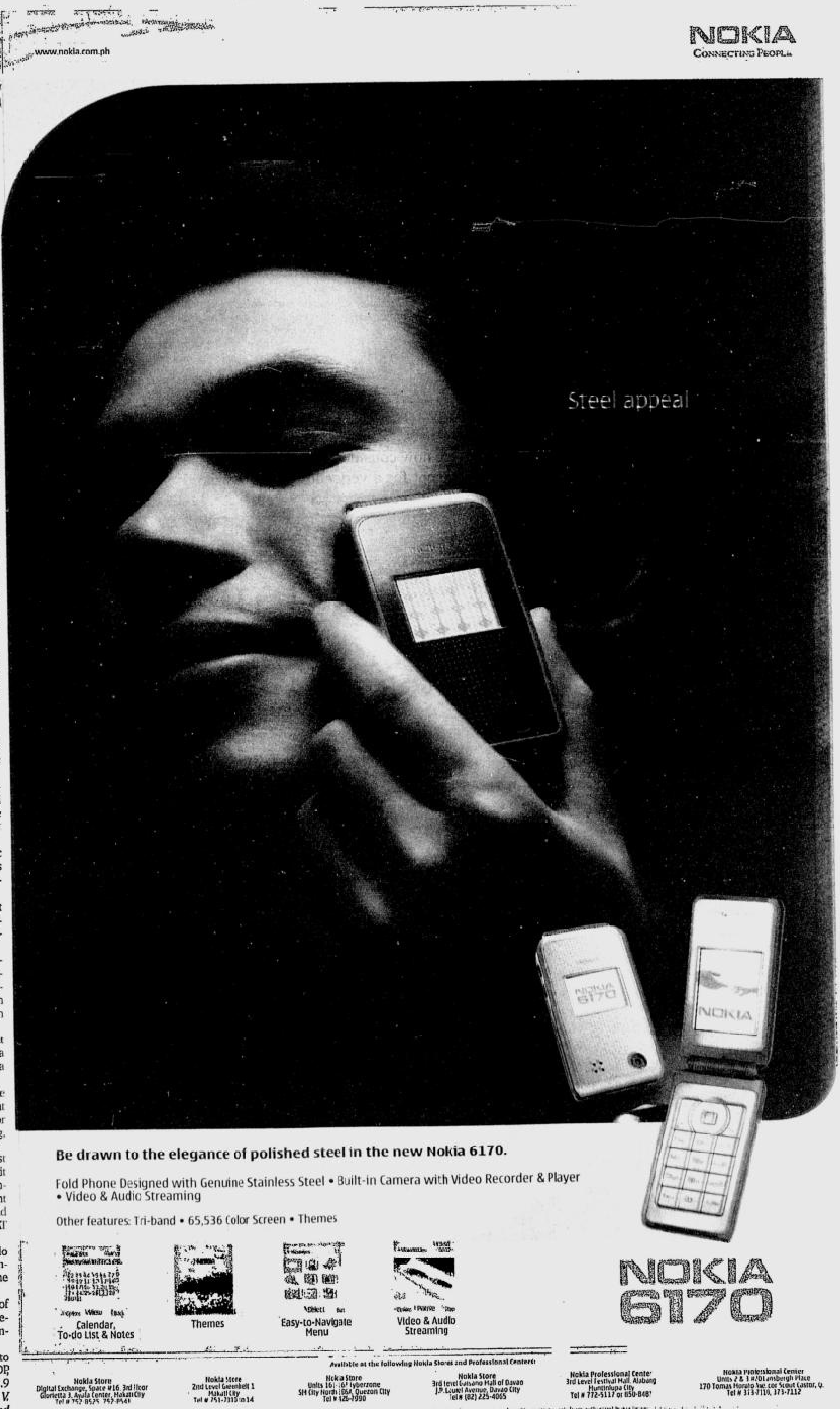
But analysts warned that a proposed measure to raise the value-added tax (VAT) to 12 percent from 10 percent and to scrap VAT exemptions for certain sectors would hurt consumer spending, which accounts for more than two-thirds of GDP.

"Although there is going to be some initial first year adverse effect on GDP, over the long run it can contribute a 1.3 to 1.6 percentage point increase in GDP," Scholastica Cororaton, assistant director general of the National Economic and Development Authority, said of the proposed VAT increase.

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said increased government spending on infrastructure this year may offset the impact of the VAT rate rise on economic growth.

"With greater investor confidence because of our reduced budget deficit, there could be a reduction in our interest payments plus also an increase in investments," Neri said.

The government expects its budget deficit to fall to P180 billion this year, or 3.5 percent of GDP, from a shortfall last year of P186.1 billion, or 3.9 percent of GDP. *With reports from Christian V. Esguerra, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., AFP and Reuters*



www.nokia.com.ph

Be drawn to the elegance of polished steel in the new Nokia 6170.

Fold Phone Designed with Genuine Stainless Steel • Built-in Camera with Video Recorder & Player • Video & Audio Streaming

Other features: Tri-band • 65,536 Color Screen • Themes

Available at the following Nokia Stores and Professional Centers:

Nokia Store
Digital Exchange, Space #16, 3rd Floor
Glorietta 3, Ayala Center, Makati City
Tel # 752-0525, 752-9543

Nokia Store
2nd Level Greenbelt 1
Makati City
Tel # 751-7010 to 14

Nokia Store
Units 161-167 Cyberzone
SM City North EDSA, Quezon City
Tel # 426-7990

Nokia Store
3rd Level Gaisano Mall of Davao
J.P. Laurel Avenue, Davao City
Tel # (82) 225-4065

Nokia Professional Center
3rd Level Festival Mall, Alabang
Muntinlupa City
Tel # 772-5117 or 850-8487

Nokia Professional Center
Units 2 & 3 #20 Lansbergh Place
170 Tomas Morato Ave. cor Scout Castor, Q.
Tel # 373-7110, 373-7112

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Iraqis defy attacks, turn out in droves

BAGHDAD—Voters turned out in surprisingly high numbers for Iraq's first free election in half a century, defying insurgents who unleashed suicide bombers and mortar attacks that killed at least 37 people.

US President George W. Bush, who ordered the controversial war to topple Saddam Hussein 22 months ago, congratulated the people of Iraq on "this great and historic achievement" but cautioned more hard work remained to turn the war-weary state into a democracy.

Despite a huge security clampdown, rebels targeted polling stations and even the home of a minister to try to wreck Sunday's election that took Iraq a step further from Saddam's legacy.

As many as 15 British military personnel were feared dead after their transport aircraft came down northwest of Baghdad but it was not immediately clear what caused the crash.

Amid estimates from Iraqi officials and foreign observers of a strong turnout, the United States and Iraqi governments declared the election a success.

"In great numbers and under great risk, Iraqis have shown their commitment to democracy. By participating in free elections, the Iraqi people have firmly rejected the anti-democratic ideology of the terrorists," Bush said.

An official with Iraq's electoral commission said it estimated about eight million people took part, roughly 60 percent of registered voters, but cautioned the figures were preliminary.

"What is certainly the case is that turnout has exceeded expectations throughout the country," a commission statement said. An official turnout estimate will likely be issued shortly.

Insurgents who vowed to turn election day into a bloodbath killed 30 civilians and six police, while a US Marine was killed in the western province of Al-Anbar.

The number of British dead in the plane crash was not immediately clear.

Prime Minister Tony Blair confirmed there were casualties. Defense sources cited by Britain's Press Association said the toll was "around 10" and "highly unlikely" to be more than 15.

Iraq's interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, who is expected to play a lead role in the next government, hailed the election for a 275-member assembly to draw up a new constitution and lay the groundwork for a post-Saddam future.

"This is the start of a new era. For the first time, Iraqis are deciding on their own future and defying the terrorist forces," he declared.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan appealed to Iraqis for reconciliation following the vote.

"This is a time for reconciliation on all sides," Annan said in a statement, adding reports have indicated that Iraqis "turned out in large numbers to exercise their right to vote."

"It will be some days before final results are known, but current indications are that the elections have been successfully carried out," Annan said.

The majority Shiite community and Kurds concentrated in the north had been predicted to vote in high numbers in one of the most dangerous and controversial elections of modern times.

But the election commission said even among Sunni Arabs—who were the ruling elite under Saddam and all previous Iraqi governments—turnout was higher than expected despite boycott calls from clerics and politicians.

Tens of thousands of Iraqi and mainly US foreign troops were on the streets to counter threats by al-Qaida frontman Abu Musab al-Zarqawi—whose group claimed to have "spoiled the party" with suicide attacks.

The government sealed frontiers, closed Baghdad international airport and imposed a night-time curfew during the poll. Vehicle traffic near polling stations was also banned.

Despite the measures, Iraq's government said 36 people were killed and almost 100 wounded Sunday. About nine suicide bombers also died, officials said.

A group that organized 10,000 independent observers said fraud had been limited.

"In general the elections went ahead in an excellent way and there was very little fraud or violations," a spokesperson for the Ain (Eye) non-governmental organization said.

The election could see the majority Shiite community take control of the government in an Arab country for the first time in 11 centuries, and Shiite and Sunni political parties face weeks of wrangling with Kurdish and secular rivals over the makeup of the new government.

With rebels threatening a long war, Washington and the interim Iraqi government have refused to set a timetable to withdraw the foreign forces.

However, the head of Denmark's opposition Social Democratic party said Sunday he would withdraw the country's troops from Iraq if they win the election there next week.

In one of Sunday's deadliest attacks, a bomber wearing an explosives-packed belt killed seven civilians and two policemen outside a polling station.

A bomb tore apart a bus of Sunnis being ferried to a polling station south of Baghdad, killing five and wounding 14, police said.

In southern Iraq, Shiites who make up 60 percent of the population, flocked to vote. *AFP*

WITH TEARS in her eyes, a veiled Iraqi woman shows off her finger stained with ink and a small card reading "Elect Iraq" after she cast her vote in a polling station in Amman, Jan. 30. Millions of Iraqis flocked to vote in a historic election on Sunday, defying insurgents who killed 37 people in bloody attacks aimed at wrecking the poll. REUTERS

TRUFLEX/PANG
PANGOFOL
ALL PURPOSE BONDING CEMENT
THE LONG-LASTING SOLUTION TO INDUSTRIAL BONDING PROBLEMS WITHOUT THE AID OF HEAT OR SPECIAL EQUIPMENT

TRUFLEX/PANG
PANGOFOL
Purpose Bonding
WARNING
Made in USA

TRUFLEX/PANG PANGOFOL is ideal for use in rubber lining installations, rubber to steel. As well as splicing of rubber to rubber or fabric such as fabric ply belting. Highly recommended for cold splicing and repairs of conveyor belts.

TRUFLEX/PANG PANGOFOL is a chloroprene-based two part cold vulcanizing cement, non-flammable & oil resistant all purpose bonding cement.

Get it together with TRUFLEX/PANG PANGOFOL!

Imported by:
JOHNSTOWN TRADING
Tel. Nos. 241-9882 241-9884 FAX No.243-2514
Mailing Address: 344 Barraca St., Binondo, M.M.
(Near end of Dasmarinas St.) LI SENG GIAP BLDG.

6 topnotchers,
76 board passers in 2004!
BRAINS
Chemistry
Boards Review
Enroll now!
Classes for working graduates
start March 5 & 6.
BRAINS Training and Review
301 Ang Bahay ng Alumni Bldg.
UP-Diliman, QC. ✆ 925-4702, 434-7423
e-mail: brains@info.com.ph

DAVIES
PAINT REINVENTED
DUTY FREE PHILIPPINES
105.1 CROSSOVER
PAGCOR
Goody
AVENT Naturally
citibank
Metro Kitchenware, Inc.
SUNNEX®
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
American Home
Ernesto Lim
Red Ribbon
Marvin Sports Plaza
Besa's
Excellence Appliance,
ENRIQUEZ SECURITY SERVICES, INC.
Sure Shot
PLDT
First Platinum
SPES Construction

Ang Pula. Ang Puti. Sa Mendiola Ang Uwi!
San Beda College
2005 Alumni Homecoming

"ANG PULA. ANG PUTI. SA MENDIOLA ANG UWI!"

AS SUCH, ALL ROADS LEAD TO SAN BEDA COLLEGE IN MEDIOLA ON STAURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2005 FOR THE GRANDEST ALUMNI HOMECOMING IN MANY, MANY YEARS. THE ALUMNI MASS STARTS AT 6PM, WITH THE BEDAN FELLOWSHIP NIGHT FOLLOWING RIGHT AFTER, AT THE SCHOOL QUADRANGLE.

IT WILL BE A PARTY TO REMEMBER! MUSIC FROM THE ROCKIN' REVIVAL BAND, AN ALL-STAR, ALL-BEDAN BAND & SURPRISE GUESTS TO COMPLETE THE FUN. THE DRAWING OF THE GRAND RAFFLE PRIZES -- A BRAND NEW TOYOA VIOS & MANY ATTRACTIVE CONSOLATION PRIZES. A TRIBUTE TO BEDAN CHAMPIONS. GREAT MEMORIES. GREAT FUN. GREAT ROCK 'N ROLL! A CELEBRATION FOR ALL BEDAN GS, HS, CAS & LAW ALUMNI BATCHES.

THE HOMECOMING KICKS-OFF WITH THE RED & WHITE GOLF TOURNAMENT ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2005 AT THE ALABANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB. TEE-OFF STARTS AT 6:30 AM.

THE RED & WHITE BALL FOLLOWS ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2005 AT THE NBC TENT, FORT BONIFACIO TO HONOR THE GOLDEN & SILVER JUBILARIANS. COCKTAILS WILL BE SERVED AT 6PM.

FOR FURTHER INQUIRIES ON THE GRAND RAFFLE TICKETS, THE GOLD TOURNAMENT, THE ALUMNI BALL & THE HOMECOMING NIGHT. PLEASE CALL THE SAN BEDA COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (SBCAA) OFFICE AT 735-5995

Win a brand new
Toyota Vios

Grand Raffle Draw is on
February 19, 2005
the night of the
2005 Homecoming.

A project for the benefit of the
San Beda College Alumni Foundation
by the
2005 & 2006 Jubilee Batches
HS '55, '56, '60, '61, '65, '66,

The
San Beda High School 1980
with the cooperation of
San Beda High School Batch 1955 & the SBC Alumni Association
presents...
Red & White
Golf Tournament
February 11, 2005
Alabang Golf & Country Club
TEE-OFF: 6:30 am to 10:00 am
P200,000 worth of prizes to be raffled off!

For further information please call the SBC Alumni Association office secretary Wilma at 735-5995 ; Red & White Golf Tournament, Tess Staub at 0917-8881010

UK plane downed near Baghdad; 10 dead

LONDON—The downing of a British military transport plane north of Baghdad caused the biggest single loss of British lives since the start of the Iraq war, Britain's foreign minister said Monday. The previous highest number was six.

Foreign Secretary Jack Straw didn't say how many troops died in the Hercules crash Sunday, but Britain's Press Association, quoting military sources, has reported that "around 10" servicemen were killed. The toll was "highly unlikely" to be more than 15, the news agency reported.

"It is the largest single loss of British service lives since the military action began almost two years ago," Straw told British Broadcasting Corp. radio.

"Our hearts go out to the families and comrades of those who were killed and those injured."

An Iraqi militant group has claimed responsibility for downing the plane. The Ansar al-Islam group said in a statement posted Sunday on an Islamic website that its fighters tracked the aircraft, "which was flying at a low altitude, and fired an anti-tank missile at it."

The Ministry of Defense said officials were still investigating the causes of the crash.

"We can't confirm any of that," a spokesperson said in response to the Ansar al-Islam claim. "People on the ground are investigating."

The spokesperson also said no other casualty details were immediately available.

The Royal Air Force C-130 military transport plane crashed about 30 km northwest of Baghdad on Sunday, about a half hour after polls closed in Iraq's elections.

A senior US military officer in Iraq said the Hercules aircraft, en route from Baghdad to the city of Balad, crashed 40 km northwest of Baghdad, adding that the plane's wreckage was scattered over a large area.

The US military has an air base at Balad.

Britain has some 9,000 troops in Iraq, mostly in the south of the country near the city of Basra.

The British military has reported 76 deaths since the start of the Iraq war. Six British crew members and one American died when two Royal Navy helicopters crashed over the northern Persian Gulf on March 22, 2003.

Six officers from the Royal Military Police were killed on June 24, 2003 in fighting in the southern Iraqi city of Majar al-Kabir.

Prime Minister Tony Blair on Sunday paid tribute to the troops killed in the Hercules plane crash, but didn't give any details of casualties.

"This is the true face of the British Army: brave, committed, professional the world over, doing an extraordinary job on behalf of their country," the prime minister said in a televised address from his Downing Street residence.

"Yet again today we see the sacrifice that they make. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of those who lost their lives today. They can be so proud of what their loved ones accomplished. This country and the wider world will never forget them."

Britain's Royal Air Force flies several versions of the American-built C-130 Hercules aircraft, which is used to carry troops, passengers and freight. The older C-130K model has a crew of five or six and carries up to 128 troops. The newer C-130J version has a crew of three and can also carry up to 128 infantry. The RAF has some 60 Hercules aircraft, about half of which are newer planes. *AP*

US deserter Jenkins calls Kim Jong-il an 'evil man'

JENKINS

SADO ISLAND, Japan—A former US army sergeant who deserted to North Korea 40 years ago said in his first news conference since leaving the reclusive communist state that North Korean leader Kim Jong-il was an "evil man."

Charles Robert Jenkins, from Rich Square in North Carolina, was given a dishonorable discharge last November and sentenced to 30 days' confinement after saying he had deserted from South Korea because he was frightened.

Jenkins, now a frail 64, arrived on the remote Japanese island of Sado, about 300 km northwest of Tokyo, on Dec. 7 to begin a new life with the Japanese woman he met and married in North Korea and the couple's two daughters.

Asked by reporters what he thought of Kim Jong-il, Jenkins said: "I've never met Kim Jong-il, but he is an evil man."

"As far as Kim Jong-il's regime, could anybody say anything good about it other than a few stooges? It's a socialist country's system of exploiting and oppressing the people."

It was the first time Jenkins had responded to questions at a news conference, although he read a statement to reporters after arriving in Sado last month.

Jenkins was a 24-year-old sergeant when he fled to North Korea in January 1965 while on night patrol in South Korea.

In North Korea, he became part of Pyongyang's propaganda machine and married Japanese Hitomi Soga, who had been abducted from her homeland by North Korean agents in 1978.

Soga, now 45, was finally allowed to leave North Korea with four other abductees in 2002. She was reunited with Jenkins and their two daughters last July in Jakarta.

Jenkins said that during his first 15 years in North Korea he "lived like a dog," but that his life changed after he met Soga, who persuaded him to stop fighting with North Korean authorities.

"After she came into my life, I never got beat again," Jenkins said, choking back tears. *Reuters*

Drop in sex hormones may spur Alzheimer's

PERTH, Australia—Falling levels of sex hormones in older men and women could result in the buildup of a protein thought to trigger Alzheimer's disease, an Australian researcher said Monday.

Ralph Martins, a professor of Alzheimer's and Ageing at Edith Cowan University, said research found that men with lower levels of testosterone had higher levels of beta amyloid protein linked to Alzheimer's.

Beta amyloid protein is a toxic substance that can kill neurones in areas of the brain that are important for learning and memory, and is widely thought to lead to Alzheimer's.

"On the other hand, higher levels of testosterone coincide with lower levels of beta amyloid protein and improved cognitive performance," Martins told the annual meeting of the Australian Neuroscience Society in Perth.

Researchers are undertaking a clinical trial among men to determine if testosterone replacement could improve cognitive performance in men whose levels of the hormone had fallen due to aging or treatment for prostate cancer.

"Over the past 12 months, we have also been looking at another hormone, known as Luteinizing hormone, or LH, which acts to regulate testosterone and oestrogen levels," Martins said.

"We do not fully understand the role of this hormone but it has become clear that it also acts on brain cells."

Research over the past 10 years suggested falling levels of oestrogen in women of menopausal age also resulted in higher levels of the toxic protein beta amyloid, but the research so far was less conclusive than that among men. *AFP*

Restore your defective equipment at Affordable Cost!
We Specialize in
LAPTOP & FAX REPAIRS
We also repair:
• PC's • Printer • Monitors
• Electronic Typewriters
• UPS • Shredders & Others
FOR MULTI-USERS AVAIL OF OUR MAINTENANCE PROGRAM
Best in Customer Satisfaction -Samsung Electronics
BUSINESSCARE S.T.C. Inc.
Makati/Manila Ortigas Center
817-0977/817-0917/687-6425/687-4213

ACTEL Communication Trading
Unit 203 MARVIC Bldg., 254 Mc Arthur Highway, Karuhatan Valenzuela City
Tel. No. 440-23-47/ 446-30-34
CCTV Security System Promo Package
• Standard Colored Camera
• Dome Colored Camera
• Digital Quad System
FREE DEMO
Telephone PABX System
PANASONIC Brand
3 CO Lines; 8 Locals
P16,500 Promo Sale
+ free 7 Units Single Line Tel.

KITANO "YOUR PARTNER IN PRODUCT & SERVICE EXCELLENCE"
BILL COUNTERS
• Quiet Operation (<60 dB)
• W/ External Display
• Speed: 900 notes / min.
CHECK WRITERS
• 10-Digit • W/ calculator
• Perforated Printing
• Heavy Duty
LAMINATORS
• Variable Temperature
• 4 Heavy duty rollers
• Forward & reverse control
MIMEOGRAPHING MACHINE
• 120 copies per minute
• Electric & Manual Operation
• Adjustable Printing Position
• Pre-set Counter
PAPER SHREDDERS
• NS-C2X2 Shred size: 2x2mm
• NS-C2X6 Shred size: 2x6mm
• NS-C2X14 Shred size: 2x14mm
WIRE & PLASTIC BINDING MACHINES
Plastic Comb Binder
• 21 Holes / A4 size
• Adjustable Margin Depth
BUNDY CLOCKS
• Two color printing
• W/ Musical Melody
• Auto Card Feed
• Auto Column Shifting
• Back-up Power
• Heavy Duty
Wire Binder CB 200W
• 34 Holes / A4 size
Also Available: 40 holes / 14"
• 450 sheets binding capacity
• 25 sheets punching capacity
• 24 Holes
BH-C24 / C24D
BH-9B10BA
CALL NOW AT: 8905310 • 8905320 • 8905327 8967764 • 8983431 • 8983432
E-mail ad.: sales@e-davidlink.com
Website: www.e-davidlink.com

HALF PRICE!
SPACIO home and office design
Our Spacio office partitions are so affordable - you would think they were half-priced!
CALL US:
MODULAR METAL PHILIPPINES,INC.
2nd Floor West City Plaza Building
#66 West Avenue, West Triangle, Quezon City
Tel. 374-7737 • Telefax 374-7738
E-mail: spacio888@yahoo.com

FREE DELIVERY within Metro Manila
ORIGINAL CARWASH EQUIPMENT
NOW For Only P39,500
Previously Priced @ ~~P55,000~~
Set Includes:
• Compressor
• Super Foam
• Vacuum
• Hi-Pressure Washer (electric driven)
With AFTER SALES SERVICE
Major Credit Cards Accepted. Deferred Payments Up To 24 Mos.
Exclusively Distributed by:
CLEANCITY COMMERCIAL INCORPORATED
MAIN OFFICE: 1851 M. OROSA ST., MALATE, MLA.
Tel. Nos.: 5244328 • 5240529 • 5245290
QUEZON CITY BRANCH: 646 QUEZON AVE Tel. 7490581 • 7493709

IWATA ALMOST 20 YEARS IN THE MARKET NOW
BUNDY CLOCKS
CW-1A P12,850
E2A P9,500
CH-1A P9,300
- 1/2color ribbon, int/ext melody, 6cols printing
- operates during brownouts
PROJECTOR
IWATA-1E P4,895
HAND DRYER
TEW PUSH BUTTON P5,300 AUTOMATIC P6,300
RECHARGEABLE SPOTLIGHT
350,000 C.P. P899
500,000 C.P. P999
1MILLION C.P. P1,099
PAPER SHREDDER CROSS CUT
Can shred CD's, Credit Cards & Staple Wire
S-1500 P8,600
S-658 P7,800
15's (capacity) 7's
4x38mm (shred size) 2x15mm
MINERAL WATER POT
5 Steps Filtration
15Lits. caps
P1,495
SEALERS IMPULSE & DIRECT
HAND SEALER 8" : P575 4" : P470
14" FOOT SEALER P8,900
LAMINATOR
12" - P6,350 / 15" - P7,850
6.2" - 3,850 / 8.5" - 3,500
IWATA INDUSTRIAL FAN
HEAVY DUTY 3 STEEL BLADES
30" Diameter
P3,890
FOR INQ: COLENT ENT. CO.
412-4317, 740-3815, 742-8138/39/40, 742-8142, 411-2396 TO 98
TELEFAX: 411-2395 FAX: 411-2399

FORTH Digital Systems
CERT.No. Q18649
www.forth.com.ph
" No PABX System is too BIG or too Small for us"
Home & Small Office Mini PABX • Professional Digital PABX • Proximity Door Access System • Authorized Attendant (DISA Box) • GSM Line Mobile Converter
• we can upgrade your obsolete PABX with our Digital Auto Attendant & GSM Line Module.
• we have "lease to own" plans for your upgrades & new requirements.
• we have 17 years experience of installation and services.
• systems for Home & Small Office starts at P12,000.00 only (3x8 System)
• we do in-house cabling & installations for PABX, PC LAN and CCTV.
Exclusive Distributor:
SOGO International Inc
538 Hen. Lacuna cor. Zamora Sts., Bangkal, Makati City
Tel. Nos.: (632) 889-0873 to 75 • Fax No.: (632) 889-0876
E-mail: sales@sogo.com.ph • Website: www.sogo.com.ph

EMBARRASSED by BAD BREATH?
It's amazing breakthrough in medical technology Therabreath System™ a U.S. product effectively eliminates *bad breath, bitter/sour taste, phlegm in throat, pasty saliva, post nasal drip, awful morning breath.*
Bad Breath is caused by sulfur producing bacteria on your tongue & throat not in stomach or sinus.
That's why mouthwashes and capsules don't really work.
Free use of *Halimeter* to detect the source of bacteria and monitoring bad breath condition.
Free delivery w/in Metro Manila
Money back guarantee
Tel: 890-8380; 895-5532; 897-2486
Cel# 0917-7965859.0919-5109455

HAPPY NEW YEAR
OXFORD MANSION
PASIG ROYALE MANSION
A Special Holiday Treat for the Family
for as low as P6,088 monthly
for as low as P5,300 monthly
NEW SANTOLAN, PASIG CITY
CONSTRUCTION IN FULL SWING
NEAR LRT-2 SANTOLAN STATION
IN-HOUSE FINANCING &
NO DOWNPAYMENT SCHEME AVAILABLE
CITYLAND 2003 Leading Condominium Developer (Presidential Awardee)
MODEL UNITS READY FOR VIEWING
812-2222 • 243-6565 • 818-8888 • 241-1894
www.cityland.net investment@cityland.net (0919)310-8553

Controlling Diabetes Begins With Changing Your Lifestyle
DIABETES, A LIFETIME DISEASE
If you've been diagnosed as a type2 diabetic, you will have to live with this disease for the rest of your life. However, until science finds a cure, here are some tips to help you manage this disease and live a long and productive life:
• Exercise regularly
A 30-minute walk at least every other day can help improve cardiovascular performance and control blood glucose.
• Eat a healthy diet
Avoid foods and fruits that are high in sugar and foods high in fat content. Include high-fiber containing foods to your diet such as whole grains, fruits and vegetables. Moderation is the key.
• Follow doctor's advise
Take the right medicines at the right dose at the right time.
• Include taking food supplements that have been scientifically validated.
DIABAN BANABA CAPSULE is a natural food supplement that contains *Colosolic Acid*, a compound that has been studied by American and Japanese researchers for its blood sugar management potential.
Control your diabetes naturally!
Diaban
BANABA CAPSULE 350 mg
Food Supplement for DIABETICS
Diaban BANABA CAPSULE FOOD SUPPLEMENT NO APPROVED THERAPEUTIC CLAIMS
ALTERMED
Initially available at mercury drug stores in Metro Manila
For inquiries please call Altermed Hotline 411-0907

TIRED OF INNEFECTIVE SOLUTIONS TO HAIR LOSS?
Why go for wigs and hairpieces when you can have your lost hair restored, permanently? Nu/Hart Hair Clinics, a world leader in hair restoration, is now open in Manila, offering its proven breakthrough procedures and American medical expertise to reverse hair loss using your own natural hair.
With over 50 years of combined surgeon experience and 15 years in business, Nu/Hart has performed over 25,000 individual hair restoration procedures on clients, both male and female, from over 40 countries at its 11 offices in the U.S. and overseas.
Unlike hair pieces and wigs, Nu/Hart's hair transplant solution is:
- Permanent and growing
- Natural
- Maintenance-free
- Affordable (Easy Payment Plans)
- No monthly visits
- No ongoing expenses.
Call or visit us now for a FREE CONSULTATION.
638-6000
26/F Wynsum Plaza, 22 Emerald Ave. Ortigas (Behind Discovery Suites)
Visit our website at www.nuhart.com
or email us at manila@nuhart.com
NU/HART HAIR CLINIC
There's a new you waiting at Nu/Hart.
Manila • New York • Chicago • Atlanta • Pittsburgh
Philadelphia • Denver • Puerto Rico • Dallas

mercury drug
NAKASISIGURO GAMOT AY LAGING BAGO

SPIRLETT TAB 80MG
[illegible]
Pay Only
P1.70
Per tab

CONZACE CAP
[illegible]
Pay Only
P10.40
Per cap

	Reg. Price	Pay Only
NIDO PDR MLK 1800G	P478.50	P 463.75
NIDO PDR MLK 200G	57.00	55.25
NIDO PDR MLK 400G	109.75	106.25
NIDO PDR MLK 900G	246.50	239.00
NIDO PDR MLK TIN 2500G	663.50	643.00

[illegible]
Pay Only **P30.25**
P30.25

RUFLEX MAT FORMULA TAB
[illegible]
Reg. Price P17.50/tab
Pay Only
P16.50
Per tab

Reg. Price	Pay Only
P 35.00	P33.00
32.00	30.25
299.00	283.75
299.00	283.75

NIVEA CR SOAP AVENA 100g
NIVEA CR SOAP 75g
NIVEA VISAGE Q10-EZ CR 15ML
NIVEA VISAGE Q10-NCARE 30ML

28-Day Sale Heart Month Special
February 1-28, 2005

mercury drug
59th
1945-2004
ANNIVERSARY

Pyodontyl
Pyodontyl

	Reg. Price	Pay Only
PYODONTYL MWASH 200ML	P 151.25	P137.50
PYODONTYL TP 100G	[illegible]	192.50
PYODONTYL TP 50G	150.00	136.50

mercury drug
Suki Card
000 000 000

Get One Now!
Start Saving Today.
Instant Savings, Earn Points.

Visit any mercury drug STORE for more details
SPECIAL DISCOUNTS FOR SUKI CARD MEMBERS

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

FOR RHEUMATIC DISEASE

	Reg. Price	Pay Only
* BEXTRA TAB 10MG	[illegible]	50.75
* BEXTRA TAB 20MG	[illegible]	63.00
* BEXTRA TAB 40MG	[illegible]	83.75

FOR CONTROL OF CHOLESTEROL

	Reg. Price	Pay Only
* LIPITOR TAB 20MG	[illegible]	64.50
* LIPITOR TAB 40MG	[illegible]	83.25
* LIPITOR TAB 80MG	[illegible]	83.25

FOR HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE

	Reg. Price	Pay Only
* LIFEZAR TAB 50MG	[illegible]	19.00
* NORTEN TAB 10MG	[illegible]	11.40
* NORTEN TAB 5MG	[illegible]	13.40

*Available Only Upon Presentation Of Physician's Prescription (Rx)

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

FOR HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE

	Reg. Price	Pay Only
* ACCU[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
* ACCUPRO[illegible]	[illegible]	25.50
ACCU[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
* ALDA[illegible]	[illegible]	29.75
* ALDA[illegible]	[illegible]	18.70
* ALDA[illegible]	[illegible]	17.40
* ALDAZIDE TAB	[illegible]	[illegible]
* CALCIBLOC OD TAB [illegible]	[illegible]	23.75
* CALCIBLOC [illegible] CAP	[illegible]	16.25
* CALCIBLOC [illegible] CAP	[illegible]	11.50
* CARDIOSEL [illegible] TAB	[illegible]	12.75
* CARDIOSEL [illegible] TAB	[illegible]	6.90
[illegible] TAB [illegible]	20.25	19.25
[illegible] TAB [illegible]	[illegible]	12.00
[illegible] TAB [illegible]	[illegible]	12.80
[illegible] TAB [illegible]	11.00	10.40
[illegible] TAB [illegible]	30.70	29.00
[illegible] TAB [illegible]	[illegible]	43.25
[illegible]	[illegible]	10.25
[illegible]	[illegible]	11.25
[illegible]	[illegible]	12.75
[illegible]	[illegible]	17.50
PRINIVIL TAB 20MG	20.00	19.00
* THERA[illegible]	[illegible]	8.60

ANTI-ANGINA (CARDIAC DRUGS)

	Reg. Price	Pay Only
* SAPHICOR ORAL SOL [illegible]	[illegible]	55.75
* SAPHICOR TAB [illegible]	20.00	18.00

MALE HORMONES

	Reg. Price	Pay Only
* ANDRIOL CAP 40MG	29.50	28.00

ANTI-ANGINA (CALCIUM ANTAGONISTS)

	Reg. Price	Pay Only
* DILATAM TAB [illegible]	19.50	18.50
* DILATAM TAB 60MG	[illegible]	21.00
* DILZEM SR CAP 90MG	[illegible]	62.75
* [illegible] TAB [illegible]	[illegible]	78.50
* DILZEM TAB 30MG	[illegible]	24.50
* DILZEM TAB 60MG	[illegible]	34.75
* ZANIDIP TAB 20MG	[illegible]	11.75
* ZANIDIP TAB [illegible]	[illegible]	18.75

FOR RHEUMATIC DISEASE

	Reg. Price	Pay Only
* CELEBREX CAP 100MG	27.00	25.50
* PONSTAN [illegible] 500MG	[illegible]	21.25

ANTICOAGULANT (Blood Thinner)

	Reg. Price	Pay Only
* COUMADIN TAB	[illegible]	[illegible]

FOR ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION

	Reg. Price	Pay Only
* CIALIS TAB 20MG	[illegible]	620.00
* VIAGRA TAB 100MG	740.00	700.00
* VIAGRA TAB 50MG	578.00	549.00

FOR KELOIDAL SCARS

	Reg. Price	Pay Only
* CONTRACTUBEX GEL 20G	[illegible]	587.00

ORAL CONTRACEPTIVES

	Reg. Price	Pay Only
* EXLUTON TAB 500MCG 28	138.25	131.25
* [illegible] TAB 22	[illegible]	349.25
* MARVELON TAB 150MG 21	215.00	204.25
* MERCILON TAB 21	248.75	236.25

FOR CONTROL OF CHOLESTEROL

	Reg. Price	Pay Only
* LOPID OD TAB 900MG	77.00	73.00
* LOPID TAB 600MG	67.75	64.25

FOR POSTMENOPAUSAL OSTEOPOROSIS

	Reg. Price	Pay Only
* LIVIAL TAB 2.5MG 28	978.00	929.00

FOR DEPRESSION

	Reg. Price	Pay Only
* ZOLOFT TAB 50MG	[illegible]	[illegible]

FOR DIABETES

	Reg. Price	Pay Only
* MINIDIAB OD TAB [illegible]	[illegible]	26.25
* MINIDIAB TAB [illegible]	[illegible]	10.50
* MINIDIAB TAB [illegible]	[illegible]	13.50

CORTICOSTEROID HORMONES

	Reg. Price	Pay Only
* ORADEXON AMP [illegible]	128.50	122.00
* PREDNISONE ORGANON TAB 5MG	[illegible]	3.00

FOR THYROID

	Reg. Price	Pay Only
* STRUMAZOL TAB [illegible]	14.25	13.50
* STRUMAZOL TAB 30MG	40.00	38.75
THYRAX DUOTAB 100MCG	7.50	7.00
THYRAX DUOTAB 150MCG	12.00	11.40
THYRAX DUOTAB 25MCG	3.00	2.85

ANTIBIOTIC

	Reg. Price	Pay Only
* UNASYN SUSP 250MG/5ML 60ML	492.50	467.50
* UNASYN TAB 375MG	78.75	74.75
* UNASYN TAB 750MG	92.25	87.50
* ZITHROMAX SUSP 200MG 15ML	616.50	585.00
* ZITHROMAX TAB 250MG	168.50	160.00
* ZITHROMAX TAB 500MG	235.50	225.00

*The Suki Card Program is available in all Metro Manila branches including Bulacan except Baliwag, Cavite, Laguna except San Pablo, Rizal, Robinsons Starmills Pampanga, Baguio, La Trinidad, La Union and Bicol branches except Legaspi and Abella.
Right reserved to limit quantities on all items. These promo discounts shall not be used together with any other discount privilege. For other promos, please visit our website at: www.mercurydrug.com

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0030 s. 2005

MDC APPROVAL
MAP-MJ-011105-17

*Available Only Upon Presentation Of Physician's Prescription (Rx)

PRESENT THIS COUPON IN ANY MERCURY DRUG STORE	PRESENT THIS COUPON IN ANY MERCURY DRUG STORE	PRESENT THIS COUPON IN ANY MERCURY DRUG STORE	PRESENT THIS COUPON IN ANY MERCURY DRUG STORE	PRESENT THIS COUPON IN ANY MERCURY DRUG STORE	PRESENT THIS COUPON IN ANY MERCURY DRUG STORE	PRESENT THIS COUPON IN ANY MERCURY DRUG STORE	PRESENT THIS COUPON IN ANY MERCURY DRUG STORE
P 6.00 Off	**P 6.00 Off**	**P 7.00 Off**	**P 7.00 Off**	**P 11.50 Off**	**P 60.00 Off**	**P 60.00 Off**	**P 60.00 Off**
WHEN YOU BUY ONE (1) BOTTLE OF	WHEN YOU BUY ONE (1) BOTTLE OF	WHEN YOU BUY ONE (1) BOTTLE OF	WHEN YOU BUY ONE (1) BOTTLE OF	WHEN YOU BUY ONE (1) BOTTLE OF	WHEN YOU BUY ONE (1) BOTTLE OF	WHEN YOU BUY ONE (1) BOTTLE OF	WHEN YOU BUY ONE (1) BOTTLE OF
TEMPRA Drp 100mg 15mL	TEMPRA Drp Or 100mg 15mL	TEMPRA Syr 120mg 60mL	TEMPRA Syr Or 120mg 60mL	TEMPRA Syr Or 120mg 120mL	SQUIBB Vit. E 400iu 30's	SQUIBB Vit. E 400iu 30's	SQUIBB Vit. E 400iu 30's
2 250004 278402	2 250001 278403	2 250002 278442	2 250000 278444	2 250009 278445	2 250000 669341	2 250000 669341	2 250000 669341
PROMO PERIOD February 1 to April 30, 2005	PROMO PERIOD February 1 to April 30, 2005	PROMO PERIOD February 1 to April 30, 2005	PROMO PERIOD February 1 to April 30, 2005	PROMO PERIOD February 1 to April 30, 2005	PROMO PERIOD February 1 to April 30, 2005	PROMO PERIOD February 1 to April 30, 2005	PROMO PERIOD February 1 to April 30, 2005

Bird flu kills Vietnamese girl, 12th in a month

HANOI—A 10-year-old girl from southern Vietnam became the 12th person to die of bird flu in a month, health officials said Monday, as authorities took precautions to keep the disease from spreading during the upcoming Lunar New Year festivities.

The girl from Long An province died Sunday night after surviving about a week in critical condition on a respirator, said a doctor from Pediatrics Hospital Number One in Ho Chi Minh City.

A dozen people have died of bird flu in Vietnam since Dec. 30, raising concerns that the disease could be re-emerging after an outbreak last year spread to 10 Asian countries, forcing the slaughter of more than 100 million birds.

The World Health Organization's biggest concern is that the virus may mutate into a form easily spread from person-to-person, potentially sparking a pandemic. Most cases so far have been traced to sick poultry and there is no evidence that the disease has altered.

"It's of course serious that we have that many deaths," said Hans Troedsson, WHO representative in Vietnam. "The other concern we have is that there would be a dramatic increase in the number of cases, even if the virus hasn't changed."

The disease, which jumped to humans in Vietnam and Thailand, has killed 44 people in the past 12 months but has subsided elsewhere in the region.

In the latest case, the young girl developed a high fever and coughing three weeks ago after helping her family bury dead chickens found in her village, said Ngo Van Hoang, director of Long An provincial Preventive Medicine Center.

Tests also were being carried out to see if a Cambodian woman who died Saturday at a hospital in southern Vietnam had the virus, a doctor said on condition of anonymity. Her family also said she was admitted with bird flu symptoms after dead poultry was found in her village.

In addition, experts were still trying to determine whether human-to-human transmission occurred between a 13-year-old girl and her mother who both died of bird flu over the past two weeks. Health officials said the two had slaughtered a duck prior to showing symptoms. *AP*

Kuwait police battle militants

KUWAIT — Several Kuwaiti policemen and militants were killed on Monday in the second shootout in as many days in oil-rich Kuwait where authorities are battling a surge in al-Qaida-linked violence.

The interior ministry said several security forces and suspected militants were wounded in the gun battle which erupted in a wealthy residential area south of the capital.

Security sources said police were pursuing about nine suspected militants in the Mubarak al-Kabir neighborhood.

"There are several wounded and killed from both parties but the final outcome of the operation is not final yet until this moment," said an interior ministry statement.

Security sources said a civilian was also killed in the clash, the fourth pitting suspected al-Qaida militants and security forces in this pro-Western Gulf Arab state.

A resident of Mubarak al-Kabir said police appeared to be targeting one villa.

"There has been a lot of gunfire. There's been literally thousands of rounds of ammunition fired," said resident James Busko by telephone, as gunfire echoed in the background.

US troops

Kuwait is a transit route for foreign troops into Iraq. The Kuwaiti government has cracked down on Islamists opposed to the presence of some 30,000 US troops.

Diplomats say sympathy for al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, who has called for holy war against Western targets, is on the rise in traditionally moderate Kuwait.

On Sunday, a Kuwaiti security officer and a Muslim militant were killed during a raid on militant hideouts. A Bahraini man was also killed and two militants arrested.

Kuwait, which controls a tenth of global oil reserves, was the launchpad for the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003. It was liberated from Iraqi forces by a US-led coalition in the Gulf War of 1991.

Kuwait has stepped up security around oil and other vital installations after an attempt by militants to launch a major attack near the country's largest oil refinery and a US military camp in the southern area of Umm al-Haiman.

The US and British embassies had warned their citizens of more attacks in Kuwait, which rounded up several suspected al-Qaida militants during nationwide raids after two security officers and two gunmen were killed in clashes this month. *Reuters*

THE POWER THAT FLOWS IN
EVERY FILIPINO'S BLOOD

It's the power of "PAGPAPAHALAGA SA TRABAHO".
A power all Filipinos were born with.

A power that enabled 379 employees of
Mirant Philippines' Sual Power Station to carry out a
highly demanding job: 4 million safe-manhours of
generating low-cost, reliable energy without a single,
lost-time accident. It's an achievement
Filipinos can be truly proud of.
An achievement that not only speaks well of
Mirant Philippines' leadership in power generation
but more so of the Filipinos' commitment to
their work and their dedication to the well-being
of the coming generations.

PAGPAPAHALAGA SA TRABAHO. A power that can
help us in building a better Philippines.

CAN GENERATE MANY
GOOD THINGS
FOR THE PHILIPPINES

MIRANT

Mirant Philippines
Sual Power Station
Beyond Today, Beyond Energy

4 Million
Safe-
Manhours

SYSTEM CERTIFICATION
ISO 14001
SGS
Certificate No.202847

This Health and Safety Milestone is a product of Mirant Philippines' Sual Power Station's cooperation and collaboration with the Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC), Department of Labor and Employment Bureau of Working Conditions (DOLE-BWC), Safety Organization of the Philippines Incorporated (SOPI), and Association of Safety Practitioners of the Philippines Incorporated (ASPPI).

ISSN 0116-2642 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Vol. 20 No. 55

OPINION

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net
Text us your feedback: inquirer opi name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

The Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
Editor in Chief **Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc**
Managing Editor **Jose Ma. D. Nolasco**
Associate Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**
Associate Editor for Readership **Rosario A. Garcellano**
News Editor **Artemio T. Engracia Jr.** • *Chief, News Day Desk* **Nilo B. Paurom**
Opinion Editor **Jorge V. Aruta**
National Editor **Pergentino B. Bandayrel Jr.**
City Editor **Gerry Lirio**
Senior Desk Editor **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**
Editorial Consultant **Amando Doronila**
Chief Photographer **Ernie U. Sarmiento**
Art & Design Director **Lynett A. Villariba**

Board Chairman **Marixi R. Prieto**
President **Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **Renato R. Reinoso**
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services **David O. Valdes**
VP for Advertising **Felipe R. Olarte**
AVP for Circulation **Gloria P. Lardizabal**

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.

Real milestone

EDITORIAL

WE were among the many who feared that American mistakes and anti-American insurgents would spell doom for the elections in Iraq. We are glad that the long-suffering Iraqi people proved us wrong.

The final tally won't be complete for a few more days, but already it seems clear that millions of Iraqis—as many as eight million, out of the 14 million who registered—turned out to vote. The numbers were higher in Shiite-dominated and in semi-autonomous Kurdish areas. The outcome in the so-called Sunni triangle, the epicenter of the insurgency, was lower, but still higher than initially expected.

The voting did not come without cost. In too many cities, the threat of sudden death, through car bombs or mortar shells, was all too real. Insurgents, who had warned Iraqis they would be killed if they voted, claimed at least 35 lives on election day.

But the violence may have emboldened ordinary Iraqis, rather than cowing them. A physical therapist in Baghdad, Batool Al Musawi, told The New York Times: "And then, hearing those explosions, it occurred to me—the insurgents are weak, they are afraid of democracy, they are losing. So I got my husband, and I got my parents, and we all came out and voted together."

So did millions of others. The result was a vindication of the stand of both the senior Shiite leader, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, and US President George W. Bush. Both had pressed for early elections, if for different reasons, and both persisted despite a worsening insurgency, again for different reasons.

Of course, it is too early to say whether post-Saddam Iraq has already turned a corner. Only legislative seats were at stake in last Sunday's elections. The next steps are by no means easy: they involve the selection of a president, two vice presidents, and a prime minister; the drafting and ratification of a new constitution; and the conduct of new elections—all before the end of the year, and all while a desperate insurgency continues to rage.

For the first time in modern Iraq's history, the Shiite majority will hold the reins of power; from all indications, they will win a majority of the transitional assembly. (This is, in fact, the main reason why Ayatollah Sistani campaigned for early elections.) The Kurds would also likely win a substantial number of seats; they have had the most experience with self-government, and they will likely play the pivotal role in the transitional assembly. The big question mark is Sunni participation.

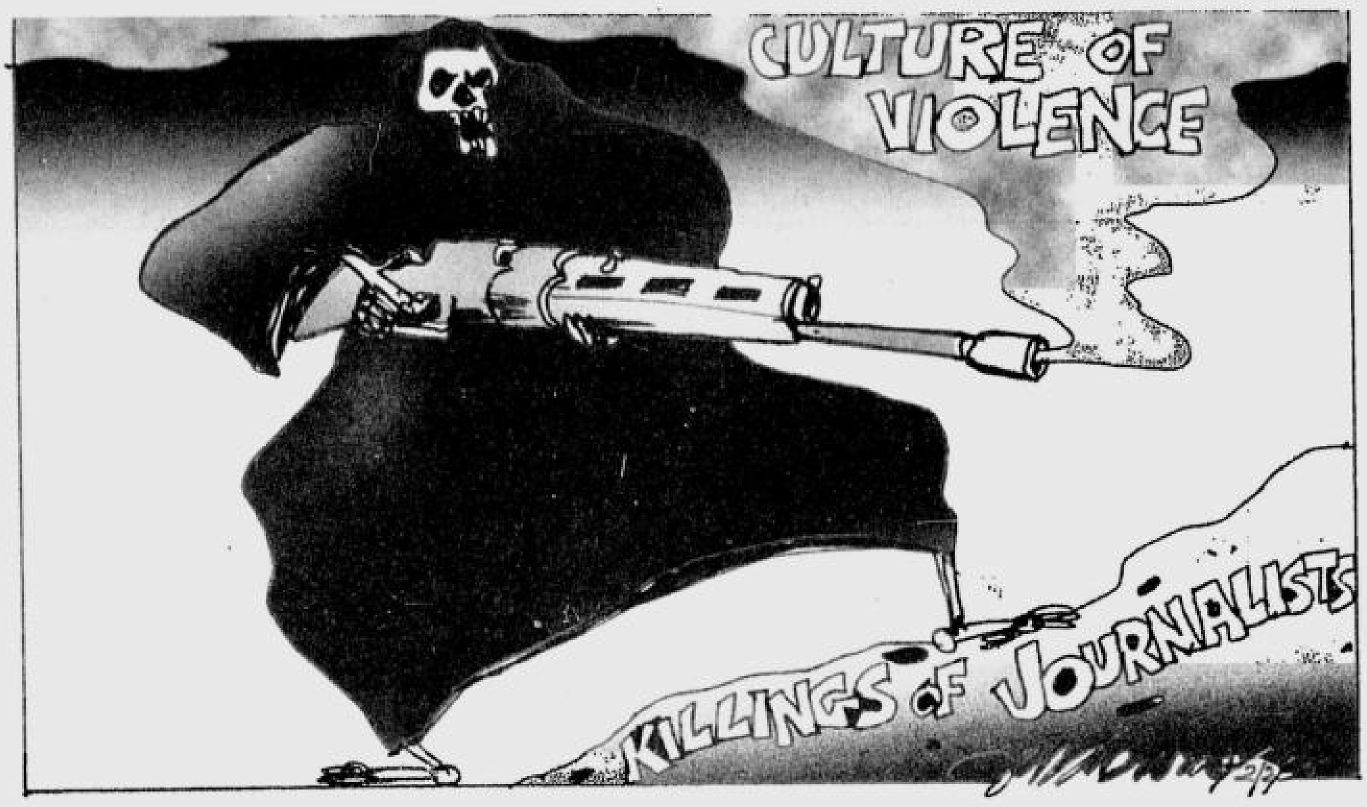
The insurgency is fueled by Sunni grievances. Will the new assembly, which will reflect their minority status for the first time, add to their grievances? If they boycott the assembly, will the new constitution reflect (perhaps through sheer political inertia) anti-Sunni biases?

There are other problems. As Filipinos know all too well, a vote cast is not necessarily a vote counted; there is a need to watch the rest of the election process closely. A ravenous insurgency can feed on the scraps of political debate; the Iraqi people must be ready for more political tension, not less, during the constitution-making process. And democracy is not a matter of elections alone; it must be sustained by civic passion, expressed every day.

All that, as well as the vexing question of American occupation, lies ahead. But for now, the Iraqi people have earned the right to celebrate a new day of freedom. Without the protection of ski masks or stolen explosives, they lined up for hours out in the open, for the chance to cast their ballot. In so doing, they not only gave the rest of the so-called "Arab street" a powerful lesson in self-determination; they reminded themselves that the future was in their hands.

A 25-year-old goldsmith from Najaf, the Shiite center, may have said it best. "We feel now that we are human beings living in this country," Muhammad Abdul-Ridha said. "Now I feel I have a responsibility, I have a vote. Things will go right if people leave us alone to do what we want to do. If they leave the Iraqi people to decide for themselves, things will get better."

As fellow travelers on democracy's sometimes-crooked road, Filipinos can only hope that thar's gold in them thar words.



Home is where the cash is

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

REACTIONS from New York, Florida to Quezon City have come fast, thick and articulate to the issue raised in our Jan 26. column, "Diaspora as economic clout."

Can Filipinos abroad muster economic muscle to create a critical mass enough to shatter crony governance that brought us all to the brink of "democratic exhaustion"? that column asked.

"Filipinos of the diaspora"—a thousand or more delegates who have succeeded abroad in their fields, yet were drawn back to their native sod—confronted that issue at the Global Networking Pinoy convention in Cebu. So did delegates to the Cultural Center's Karangalan conference and "Pinoy Unleashed" at the Ultra.

Echoing John Kennedy's 1961 inaugural theme—"Ask not what your country can do for you..."—they wondered: how could they help a country skirting democratic debility?

Use your economic clout to sledge-hammer reforms at home, First Pacific's Manuel Pangilinan suggested. Replace systems crammed with cronies with a meritocracy that rewards excellence. Otherwise, the best will vamoose at the first visa.

"Thank God for confabs like (this)," wrote Jovie Galarga of Pasig City. "Pinoy achievers challenge us to focus on our strengths as a people. There's a with-God-nothing-is-impossible spirit resident in every Pinoy's heart."

"The easiest way for overseas Filipinos to help is to get as many relatives to their adopted country," scoffed Amadeo dela Cruz of New York's Greenwich Village. "There are enough obstacles," from reacquiring citizenship to buying land, put up by the rich, with help of politician-relatives, to discourage overseas Filipinos.

Filipinos abroad have economic muscle, Pepton J. Anton in California writes. But is there "common purpose of reforms"? Elites returning adopt vices of corrupt domestic oligarchs, from underpaying domestic helpers to ostentation, a point that "Andre MM" of New York concurs with. "Elites don't want to change the system anymore than non-elites risk changing it."

Should they abandon comfort zones to cap a social volcano created by corrupt rulers and corrupt ruled? Filipinos abroad debate. Should they help dismantle this anomaly in the autumn of their lives, when they can sit in relative peace?

Many do, reports Jose Montelibano of Gawad Kalinga in the Pusong Pinoy webpage. Some adopt simpler lifestyles to channel their savings to help.

"Esok and Sally Andraneda of Chicago sold their mansion to buy a modest house and donated the difference of $100,000 to build homes for poor Filipinos," he writes. They raised another $77,000 from the sale of their Mercedes. "More stories like this are waiting to be told."

"When Filipinos leave, they are halfway out the door," Anthony Yu (of Canada?) pointed out. "The only thing holding them are people they care about here. Take them away, and they're gone. This is fact."

Dr. Remigio Lacsamana of Florida agrees. "Majority of us who left did so because of the lack of opportunities there. Few plan to go back except to visit." Those who left families behind send hard-earned money to help relatives get by. Often, this entails sacrifices, "as some don't always have good jobs," Lacsamana adds.

Yu concurs saying: "(Those) who send money do so because they have loved ones there, not to exact excellence from government's performance. That's confusing personal responsibilities with the public good."

"National redemption, however, depends on empowerment of the majority, not from the diaspora's enthusiastic few, prescribing solutions," writes "Andre MM" from New York.

"We're not competitive in the world labor market. That's the unpleasant truth. It's harder even for educated Filipinos now to migrate. It's due to our deteriorating education, competition from neighbors, and changes in immigration laws. We didn't dislodge Mexicans on the basis of advance competencies. This isn't a pretty record."

Lasting change will come from the commitment of Filipinos who participate in a boring process called nation-building. "We are on our own," Yu stresses. "If we don't get our act together here, expect more (thieves) who eventually park their cash someplace else."

"Our neighbors like Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, and South Korea make giant strides while we lag," Dr. Lacsamana adds. "I'm saying no to Tita Glo. More than retiree dollars, we must throw behind bars every official who has made that his way of life. Revamp our culture."

Since the mid-1990s, Gawad Kalinga monitored the shifting mood of Filipinos abroad, Jose Montelibano claims. At the September 2004 Chicago conference of Filipino groups, GK reported "on a collective angst to focus on the motherland, and perhaps even help."

Filipinos in the United States, Canada and Australia assist typhoon, flood and other victims. They chip in for various charities. GK supports 400 communities nationwide. Volunteers tend poor families in cooperation with "partners": mayors, some corporations and colleges. A group rebuilds a typhoon ravaged Camarines Sur town.

Many church and NGOs do similar work but never get into the news. Despite the "agony of a wounded people," Montelibano claims there's "a growing empathy in the hearts of Filipinos abroad that transcends the extreme frustration they have long felt at the quagmire known as Philippine society."

* * *

E-mail: juan_mmercado@pacific.net.ph

Kalbaryo

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I WAS one of those who applauded what Darwin Calvario did, and I am happy that he has reaped the rewards of his honesty. Calvario is the tricycle driver from Gen. Santos City whose deed has now become part of urban legend, the legend of cab/jeepney/tricycle drivers and post office clerks returning money they find in their premises.

Calvario's case is a little more dramatic. Not least because of his name, which as our correspondent, Aquiles Zonio noted, is cruelly apt. Calvario lives a life of Calvary: he is as poor as a church (or mosque?) mouse and cannot afford an operation for his two-year-old son who suffers from an anus that isn't open. The results of that affliction you see in the picture that appeared on page 6 of our Saturday issue: His belly is bloated.

One day a couple of weeks ago, Fate dropped on Calvario a magnificent gift. It took the form of a bag he found on his tricycle containing P270,000 in checks and P26,000 in cash. The money could easily pay for the operation and leave something extra for him and his family. His fellow tricycle drivers advised him not to look a gift horse in the mouth and use the money to good purpose. But Calvario refused. Against the prodding of his fellows and the pounding of his needs, he decided to seek out the identity of Fate.

Next day, he went to Radyo Bombo to report it. And soon enough, Fate came rushing in in the form of Sarah Joe, a businesswoman. The grateful Joe immediately gave Calvario P6,000 and a sack of rice.

Calvario's honesty also did not go unnoticed by the wider public, and soon enough well-wishes, and more importantly cash and tangible rewards, began streaming his way. The mayor pledged to pay for his son's operation, but a doctor topped this by saying he would do the operation for free. The PCSO, GMA7's Kapuso Foundation and ABS-CBN's Bantay Bata all dropped by and expressed their willingness to help. Truly, one good deed deserves another.

What drove Calvario's story home to me was that at the time it was reported, something else was on our front page that played out as stark contrast. While Calvario was desperately trying to return money he himself badly needed, other people were desperately trying to steal money they did not particularly need. That was the bill to raise the VAT from 10 to 12 percent, which Congress had just passed and was being protested by various groups in the streets. Malacañang itself was busy defending it, saying the new VAT would not affect the poor, only the rich and middle class.

My reason for saying the people who were desperately mounting this theft did not particularly need this money comes from two things.

The first is that no new taxes are needed. All government has to do to raise more money is collect taxes right. The booksellers who are protesting the inclusion of books in VAT have pointed this out: "In 2003, the National Tax Research Center estimated a loss of P127 billion a year from uncollected taxes and VAT from 1998-2002, or a total of P635 billion over five years. In 2002, a DOF study estimated an even larger loss of P243 billion a year if uncollected excise, documentary stamp, interest withholding, fringe benefits, gross receipts and insurance taxes were included. Of the NTRC yearly loss estimate, P41.6 billion, one-third of uncollected taxes, was from uncollected VAT."

What this means is that the principle behind the new VAT is simply that if you can't collect from the rich, you might as well shake down the poor (and middle class). It's Robin Hood—in reverse.

The second reason is more patent. The new taxes will not go to improve the plight of the country, it will go to improve the fortunes of public officials, not the least of them the members of Congress who rushed to approve it. As a friend of mine who works in Congress told me recently, the place has become a piggery, populated by swine who can only think pork. In the past, representatives at least made the pretense of justifying appropriation. These days, they do not bother, they just grab everything they can lay their hands on. It's sheer effrontery ("*garapalan na*"), he said. My friend was particularly worried that at the rate congressmen and other officials were depreciating virtue, which was faster than the peso, the public might take it into its head to stop paying taxes.

Indeed, the way things are, government should be thanking its lucky stars Filipinos are still paying taxes. The last thing it should be thinking of is new ways to fleece them. Remember the phrase, "*tama na, sobra na*"? The third part is, "*palitan na.*"

Frankly, I don't know why we like to think the poor are naturally lazy and dishonest, which is why they are poor, when this country resolutely shows the opposite is true. The rich are so, which is why they are rich.

If Calvario had not returned the money and been found out, which was more than likely since spending for an operation isn't exactly inconspicuous, he would have been called a thief or a crook, and sent to jail for God, or the hanging judge, knows how long. Yet a group of officials steals several billion pesos from the taxpayers to give to a fly-by-night company to computerize balloting, and the computerization never takes place, and we do not call them crooks, we call them the Comelec. And reward them by giving them more powers to supervise *mano-mano* counting, and thereby to cheat in addition to stealing. A group of officials steals more billions from the taxpayers by making deals with tycoons and big corporations, and we do not call them thieves, we call them the BIR. And reward them by giving them more powers to collect from the poor, thereby also covering up their inefficiency and crookedness.

Easy to see who's the Kalbaryo ng Bayan.

Abad seeks to decentralize DepEd

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

LAST Sunday on the radio program that Cecile Alvarez and I co-host, Education Secretary Florencio Abad gave us a picture of Philippine education in crisis. He said that the 2003 Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study of 38 countries, which was released last December, saw RP placing 36th from the bottom. The Top 5 countries were from our region: Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong, South Korea and Japan (tied with United Kingdom). Another survey on high school proficiency in 45 countries put RP 41st from the bottom, besting only South Africa, Ghana, Botswana and Saudi Arabia. On elementary proficiency among 25 countries, RP was 23rd, beating only Tunisia and Morocco. On the other hand, only 0.64 percent of our elementary graduates scored 75 percent or better out of about 1.2 million examinees in the 2004 High School Readiness Test. They showed that our average elementary graduate's competency is equal only to Grade 4.

* * *

We queried Abad on whether he would implement the bridge program proposed by his predecessor, Dr. Edilberto de Jesus, to help elementary graduates tackle high school. He said that 22 percent of high school students chose to take the optional remedial classes, and that the results of these will be evaluated. Should the students show no improvement, he would recommend to the President to enforce the bridge program. Abad said the problem is that there are parents who don't want a five-year high school as they want to get their children employed as soon as possible. This is, of course, tragic, because these parents are only postponing the agony for their children, who are ill-prepared for the future. Moreover, he said, more than any other age, ours has come to value knowledge so much, and yet our students learn so little.

* * *

Neither are our 51,000 teachers well-prepared. In a self-assessment test for English, only 19 percent scored 75 percent or better. The deterioration in English of students is illustrated by the fact that in qualifying exams for call-center employment, only three out of 100 applicants manage to pass. The drop-out statistics also rise as the students go into higher levels of education. There's a shortage of about 57,000 classrooms. RP also spends among the lowest for education, P7,700 per students, compared to our Asian neighbors and especially with the advanced countries.

* * *

Abad refuses to be discouraged, however, and he cited several silver linings in the horizon. For instance, in the recent national achievement tests for fourth year high school students, the Top 3 schools were from the rural areas, namely, Lope de Vega National High School in Catarman, Northern Samar, which got an overall score of 87 percent; Tumauini National High School and Regional Science High School in Isabela, with 86.04 percent, and Rustico Capahi Sr. High School in Ormoc City with 85.06 percent. Interestingly, the 20 top high schools in that competition were provincial schools, edging out the high schools from the cities and NCR.

* * *

This was the same story in the recent High School Readiness Test: no NCR schools figured in the Top 20 schools, only provincial schools, led by topnotchers Melgar National High School and Loreto National High School, both in Surigao del Norte, with overall scores of 88.93 and 85.67 percent, respectively.

Abad related that he got so intrigued by Lope de Vega High School's performance that he decided to visit it, traveling more than two hours over rough roads at the height of typhoon "Yoyong." He saw for himself why: There were no distractions for the students in the mountain area and the school has very dedicated teachers who hold remedial classes after the end of regular classes.

Regarding distractions, I submit that one big culprit among urban students is the cellular phone.

* * *

Incidentally, in citing the very poor performance of RP in the recent international math and science survey, I find a good occasion to rectify an error. I had earlier written that 12-year-old child prodigy Chino Sebastian Gutierrez, who recently obtained a scholarship in high school and in violin training in Germany, bested his fellow students in Munich in a math contest and will represent the city in the statewide contest in Bavaria. It turns out he also beat the students in Bavaria and on Feb. 23, this 12-year-old Pinoy will represent the state in the Germany-wide math contest. Should he win there, he'll take part in an international competition. He has also won in a violin contest. But he desperately needs financial help. His father, a computer management guy who had to quit his work here in order to be with his son in Munich, has a take-home pay of about 200 euros a month from a job at the RP consulate, arranged for him by then Foreign Secretary Blas Ople. But this is not even enough to pay for their apartment rental, let alone their daily subsistence.

* * *

Abad candidly admits that DepEd cannot handle everything for our 41,734 public elementary and high schools. What he envisions is a partnership between DepEd and the stake-holders in each community: the parents, the teachers, the local officials and other local leaders. He envisions decentralizing the DepEd chain up to the superintendent level initially, and ultimately at the school level, where the school council, composed of school officials, the parents and local officials, play a really "*makabuluhan*" role in running the school. Abad sees DepEd more as the instrument "for installing and maintaining the four key requirements for success at every community, school or learning setting in the various localities." He wants to make "local governance of basic education" yield better educational outcomes for all.

Morality and practicality

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

RADIO show-biz commentator "Tita" Swarding put his opposition to condoms succinctly: "I don't approve of condoms because they take the pleasure out of sex!" To which I had to retort that "there's no pleasure to be had when you're already dead!"

Last Thursday's "Debate" (actually, it aired very early in the morning of Friday) on GMA-7 was supposed to focus on the implications of Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit's declaration that the DOH was not keen on promoting condoms as one of the methods of family planning. Which is strange, come to think of it, since condoms have long been part of the "menu" of safe, effective and legal methods of contraception that the government has been promoting for decades. Condoms are perhaps the oldest contraceptive method. Trust Condoms' Benny Llapitan recounted that the first condoms were developed soon after the Crusades when the crusaders started bringing home sexually transmitted infections along with tales of heroism. What's more, condom use is the only family planning method that also provides protection against most sexually transmitted infections. So where did Dayrit's sudden and unfounded hostility to condoms spring from?

Unfortunately, the question put to the viewing public and to the panelists focused not on Dayrit's stated policy, but on the "morality" of condom use. And that's where the discussion immediately bogged down. For when such a personal and subjective matter as "morality" is dragged into the discussion, there can be no meeting of minds, since standards on what is "moral" or "immoral" are bound to vary widely.

* * *

ACTUALLY, I wanted to refute "Tita" Swarding's assertion about the loss of sensation when using a condom since experts claim the latex used in condoms sold these days is so thin it should not interfere with the user's pleasure. But then, who was I to say so, being a woman? I waited for my co-panelists, Bukidnon Rep. Neric Acosta and comedian Gary Lising, to speak up, but they chose the better part of discretion.

Those on the other side, who contended that condom use is immoral, stuck by their premise that the only real form of protection against unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections is abstinence. A student leader declared that if young people would only wait until after they reach adulthood and are married before they have sex, then they would have nothing to be afraid of. Manila Rep. Miles Roces added that married couples need only stay faithful to each other to protect each other against the same risks.

There's nothing new or revolutionary in this, really. If you would recall, our own parents sought to fill our heads with dire warnings about *disgrasyadas* and the dangers of syphilis and gonorrhea (they had not known about HIV/AIDS yet), as did their parents, too, I bet. I have nothing against these messages and warnings, and have doubtless said much the same thing to my own children. But much as we parents of today would wish to live in denial about our children's sexuality, the dire reality is that more and more young Filipinos are engaging in sex today, and thus putting themselves at growing risk of early and unwanted pregnancy as well as coming down with an STI, including HIV/AIDS.

* * *

NEITHER is the debate confined to the Philippines, or to Filipino Catholics, alone. The other week, Pope John Paul II was moved to reaffirm Church teaching urging abstinence and marital fidelity as the only way to halt the spread of HIV/AIDS. The Vatican's declaration came in the wake of a statement made by a Spanish bishop that there was "a place" for condoms in AIDS prevention, though this Church official was later overruled by the full bishops conference.

This hasn't fully stopped other bishops, though, from speaking their minds on the issue. Two cardinals in Europe, for instance, separately spoke "of a hypothetical situation in which use of a condom might be justified: when a woman must have sex with someone who is infected with HIV and therefore must protect herself."

In Mexico, reports the Washington Post, a bishop said in a news conference that condom use could be considered the "lesser evil" if employed to prevent AIDS. "If someone is incapable of controlling (his) instincts…then they should do whatever is necessary in order not to infect others," said Bishop Felipe Arizmendi of San Cristobal de las Casas.

Msgr. Angel Rodriguez Luno, a professor of moral theology, offers a similar approach in weighing the "morality" of condom use. One possible avenue for a new condom policy, he said, would be a "lesser-of-two-evils" approach, where "condoms could be approved as a means of reducing the instance of danger or sin in cases where someone is bent on having extramarital sex or sex with a spouse while infected with HIV."

* * *

WEIGHING in on the issue, the Irish Independent in an editorial pointed out a "way out" for the Catholic Church on the issue of condom use. Much like St. Thomas Aquinas once argued that prostitution should not be suppressed even though he believed it immoral, on grounds that "lustful" men could be driven to do more evil if they did not have such an outlet, the editorial argued that the Church could also "draw a distinction between what is morally desirable and what happens in the real world if you tried to make it morally perfect."

It added: "Sometimes the common good requires that you turn a blind eye to what's immoral." So why can't the Catholic Church say that "although it believes condom use is immoral and undesirable, what is even less desirable is to have innocent people die because (people living with HIV) won't use condoms when having sex."

If you are pro-life, shouldn't you also be against death?

Of the Island of Mindanao

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

IN 1770, Capt. Thomas Forrest was given the command of the ships of the East India Co. on the West Coast of Sumatra. Five years later, he was instructed to explore the islands eastward of Sumatra. That same year he arrived in Mindanao.

He tells us that the word Magindano is composed of the word "*Mag*" which means "within" and "*dano*" which means "lake" so that combined they mean "from the lake" or "settled about the lake."

At the time of Forrest's arrival, the island was divided into three parts, each under a different government. On the west, the Spaniards had their settlement in Zamboanga, on the east was Cape Agustin or Pandagitan and on the north was Surigao. The first was ruled by a sultan who lived in Mindanao or Selangan (Silangan?) composed of the greater part of the sea coast. The second was under the Spaniards and comprised a large sea coast to the west, north and northeast where they had established Christian colonies of Visayans. The third was under the Illano or Illanon, sultans and rajahs, who inhabited the banks of Lake Lanao inland towards the hills.

The Spaniards, who subdued the north coast, never did conquer the whole (nor has anyone else for that matter). The Spaniards would refer to it as part of the Philippines but, of course, the Brits thought it a ploy of the former to enlarge their dominions. Some authors like Dalrymple called it "an island adjacent to the Philippines." And French author D'Avitay stated that Mindanao was not a Philippine island ("Histoire Generale de l'Asie.")

Forrest mentions 14 dialects, and the sultan himself informed him that their language had many Chinese idioms and that they observed Chinese customs such as giving their sons different names for childhood and for adulthood, using yellow as the royal color, and seating guests at different tables during ceremonies. Some of their gongs, with knobs on them came, from Java; while those without knobs came from China. The women were moved about in chairs in the same manner as they were in Canton.

If you can believe it, before Marco Polo there was another Venetian traveler by the name of Eben Wahab who in the year 898 went to China and found Cansu, described as a city of Arabian traders.

It isn't strange that the Arabs would have found their way to Mindanao. The inhabitants of Mindanao needed iron, and they exchanged this commodity for gold, wax and cinnamon. Voyages then were neither safe nor frequent and traders would stay long, sometimes take wives and build houses. Forrest believed that it was these traders who first brought Islam to Mindanao.

The town that went by the name of Maguindanao consisted of little more than 20 houses standing close to and just above a little creek perpendicular to the Pelangy River (the names were probably spelled the way he heard them) from a small lake called Dano about a mile distant. It was ruled by the Rajah Moodo (Mura?) which Forrest says meant "young king."

He was elected by the states and succeeded the sultan. A Watamama was also elected who would become the Rajah Mura when the former became sultan.

Close to the river Maguindanao was the town of Selangan. Here was found the fortified palace of the sultan and the wooden "castles" of the datus Topang and Chartow taking up one whole side of the river. By Datu Chartow's fort farthest from his father, the sultan's, was a small river surrounding three sides of it. The fourth side was the Pelangy River. Below this resided many Chinese in about 200 houses. They were mostly carpenters, arrack distillers and millers. They would grind the hulk off the rice between two stones, a process that was apparently more efficient than beating it with a wooden mortar.

Below the sultan's palace were the brick and mortar ruins of a Spanish chapel. The area was sparsely inhabited and the Muslims built their houses on the banks of the Pelangy, Melampy and Tamantakka Rivers. By the sides of many creeks, at a distance of almost 300 yards, would be a single house, sometimes a group of houses. They had gardens with coconut and mango trees, as well as bananas. There were sugar cane and rice fields up those rivers. A small portion of the river was fenced off to protect people from alligators while bathing.

The Muslims traveled mainly by water in vessels of 40 or 50 oars that were built along the banks of rivers. Some were used for trading in different coasts, others to cruise along the waters of the Visayas for slaves and plunder. They would cruise as far as Java and the islands of Celebes and Borneo.

On another point of land where the Melampy River ran into the Pelangy was a fort called Coto Intang (Diamond Fort) where Kyband Zachariel, elected Datu Mura, had also built a town. The fort covered six acres, strongly pallisaded using trees 25 feet high. The floor was plank, with a platform 12 feet from the ground. Here were mounted five cannons.

During Forrest's visit, the rajah was constructing three square bastions of clay and logs about 10 feet high on three corners of his fort. The fort itself was nearly square and contiguous to his house. On the ground were several cannons and around were swivel guns and brass *lantakas*. On each bastion was a large Spanish bell guarded all night by two sentinels—a Moro and a Christian—tolling three strokes every 10 minutes.

(*From Capt. Thomas Forrest, "A Voyage to New Guinea, and the Moluccas, from Balambangan," 1780.*)

One team

YOUNG BLOOD

Yumiko Elesia E. Almendras

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I HAVE attended a number of seminars and workshops, all of which were supposed to inculcate in me the values of unity and leadership. But more often than not, they only ended up igniting a sense of competition, of rivalry, of conflict, among the participants because in the end, only one should emerge victor or leader of the pack. The main goals of unity and solidarity were slowly broken into sub-groups, into smaller teams, and eventually just one "I" or "me."

Great people have said that there is no room for two people at the top. Others even go to the extent of saying, "It is not enough that I succeed, others must fail."

One workshop taught me otherwise. Like all the rest, it started with a story, a challenge for 47 eager students. We were divided into three groups and each group was given 12 golden bricks. Our mission: to get everyone across the "river of crocodiles" using the 12 golden bricks, unharmed and at the shortest time.

By the time our group used up all our 12 bricks, we were still halfway down the river, with hungry "crocodiles" at our feet and time ticking away fast. It got us thinking, "Who are we kidding? Unless we start growing gills and fins, there's no way anyone is going to cross this river."

Everyone had the same dilemma. We were left scratching our heads in puzzlement and frustration.

After a while, one of the facilitators, Jojo Alino, asked us, "How many golden bricks do you have?"

"Twelve," we chorused.

"Count again."

After making another manual count, asking a number of questions, and some live discussion, someone finally suggested, "Thirty-six?"

Yes, three 12's make 36. It was rather unfair that the instructions were not clear. The fact that we had been divided into three groups had us assuming that we were competing against each other.

But then again, the instructions said, "The team that crosses the river first, wins." In this case, we were **one** team. From 47 students, 16 universities, and 10 undergraduate courses, we had become *one* team.

It's surprising how differences between so-called enemies and archrivals can be easily ironed out when the occasion calls for it. I never imagined myself working (and read: harmoniously) with students fondly called "*mga taga-Katipunan*" and "*mga aktibista.*" But yes, I must confess to my fellow Lasallians, I now call them by their first names.

One amusing conversation comes to mind. I proudly told a fellow delegate from Ateneo that I had this newly discovered "talent" of easily picking out an Atenean from a crowd. Not to be outsmarted, my Atenean friend said, "To be honest, I can easily tell if someone is from La Salle, too."

Overhearing our exchange, a delegate from UP-Diliman butted in, "Really? I can't tell a Lasallian from an Atenean."

Now, that came as a big blow. But I couldn't help but laugh at his frank comment. There we were, boasting about one's "edge" over the other (regarding such issues as who's got the best basketball team, the biggest school grounds, or the hardest subjects), when in reality it's the "same difference."

No other phrase could possibly describe the situation better than that term, no matter how absurd it might sound. No matter how much better or more advantaged we may feel over another (especially a long-loathed archrival), somebody else is bound to see both parties as no different from the other.

This has, of course, a deeper implication. Let's take our pitiful country, for example. One must have already noticed that we are more than just a financially unstable nation. In fact, we are one unstable and divided nation. We don't realize that other people will not take Imelda Marcos (Guinness World of Records' only woman with 3,400 pairs of shoes); National Artist Levi Celerio (Guinness' only man who could play beautiful music with a leaf); Ferdinand Marcos (the man who allegedly took away the largest loot in history); or Joseph Estrada (who allegedly amassed $82 million in kickbacks and payoffs in his 31-month stint as President) for what they are. What strangers see is one poor country, one desolate nation, one wretched people. And in desperate times such as this, when all that's left for people to hang on to is prayer, there is no room for cut-throat competition.

This story is simple. It is simpler than most parables, a whole lot simpler than your P800 "Rich Dad" series, but it is something most—if not all—of us forget or perhaps deem unnecessary. Why indeed should one share his glory with 46 others? Why can't one be alone in the limelight, enjoying one's fame, success or wealth?

Simple. Because it takes more than 12 golden bricks to build one lasting empire.

Yumiko Elesia E. Almendras, 21, is a BS Accountancy senior at De La Salle University-Manila where she is also the features editor of The LaSallian. She learned this lesson she wrote about from the Unilever Business Week 2004 Committee and her ONE TEAM family.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

If you are sending your contributions by e-mail, please address it to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address and information about your age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with.

THEY SAID

Useless testimony

"They were practically begging me to help them, but after I testified, here I am, being kicked around."

—Mary "Rosebud" Ong, complaining that fees due her have not been given allegedly because of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo's intervention

Just thoughts

"I resigned satisfied with the thought that I have done my best and I have been fair."

—Sandiganbayan Justice Edilberto Sandoval, after quitting as chair and member of the special division trying deposed President Joseph Estrada

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

Transfer coco levy fund to PCA

THE SANDIGANBAYAN's decision on the coco levy cases is a major victory for the coconut farmers. Since the coconut farmers had long been deprived of their rights and privileges to use the levy proceeds for coconut industry development, it's high time to transfer the coco levy fund to the Philippine Coconut Authority as the only government agency mandated to collect and administer the levy fund by coco levy-related presidential decrees.

A careful review of all presidential decrees and issuances which directed the coco levy collections clearly shows that it was imposed for a specific purpose: for the benefit of the coconut farmers. PD 232 which created the PCA has the following declarations: "Section 1. It shall be the policy of the state to promote accelerated growth and development of the coconut ... so that the benefit of such growth shall accrue to the greatest number, and to provide continued leadership and support in the integrated development of the industry." The same presidential decree indicates the following objective: "Section 2.c. To achieve vertical integration of the coconut industry so that coconut farmers become participants in and beneficiaries of the development and growth of the coconut industry." Such mandated policy is repeated in four presidential decrees, two executive orders, a letter of instruction and a PCA resolution.

All coco levy-related presidential decrees and issuances state that the purpose of the levy collection was to fund concerns, activities and investments for the benefit of the coconut farmers. The phrase "for the benefit of the coconut farmers" was reiterated at least 82 times in six presidential decrees, three executive orders, four letters of instruction and 11 PCA resolutions.

In a nutshell, the PCA, as the only government agency mandated to promote the development of the coconut industry and to ensure that the coconut farmers become active participants in and direct beneficiaries of such development, should be strengthened and empowered to achieve its mandate as the custodian of the coconut levies.

—LORNITO U. ORILLANEDA,
regional manager 3,
Philippine Coconut Authority, Southern Mindanao (Region 11), PCA Complex,
Bago Oshiro, Tugbok District, Davao City

Higher VAT adds insult to injury

WITH THE VAT exemptions for professionals (who do not even issue official receipts for payments made by their clients), an increase in the Value Added Tax—from 10 percent to 12 percent—adds insult to the injury of the vast number of our poor who are already living in hunger. That more is being spent for beer and cell cards should not be made a gauge in determining that people have more money, as Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye would want us to believe when he said, "If they can afford to buy these items, which we consider a luxury, it means they have money." (PDI, 1/13/05)

The committee on ways and means of the House of Representatives should conduct further studies and hearings not to find ways of increasing revenues for the national government but to arrest the endless rise in the prices of prime commodities. Those in the corridors of power should think of ways to alleviate the sufferings of our less fortunate countrymen.

Improving tax collection and eradicating graft and corruption in government are the better alternatives to additional taxes.

—GODOFREDO O. PETEZA SR.,
JP Rizal Street, Barangay Camambugan,
4600 Daet, Camarines Norte

Not to blemish Rizal

I WISH to thank Lusito San Valentin of the Knights of Rizal for watching and commenting on our documentary on Jose Rizal ("Little Bad Boy: *Binatang Rizal sa Europa*"), which was shown on GMA 7 last Dec. 27, 2004.

However, I do wish to clarify several points San Valentin made in his letter. (PDI, 1/19/05) One is that we didn't say that Rizal was a gambler; his grandnephew Francisco Rizal Lopez did. He said this because Rizal was known to buy lottery tickets. Whether this constitutes gambling is a matter of interpretation.

We also did not call Rizal a womanizer or a playboy. He was called a "chickboy" in the plug for the show. We meant that he courted many women, and many were also attracted to him. We did not intend to imply that he took advantage of them.

Our interview with Sir Jean-Paul Verstraeten actually refuted, and did not support, the rumor that Rizal fathered Adolf Hitler.

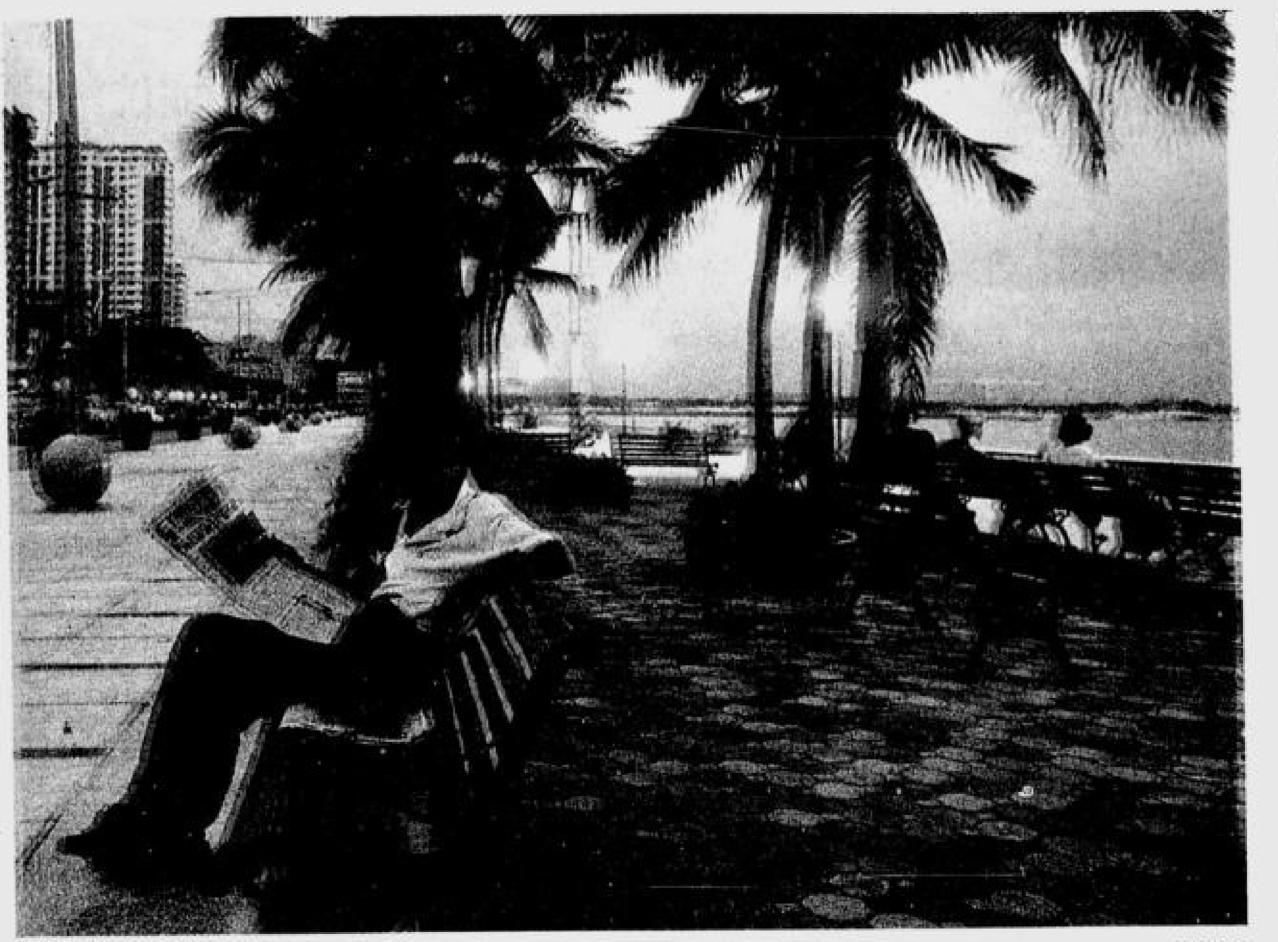
San Valentin may disagree with the 18-year-old Suzanne Thill's term of endearment for Rizal, "you little bad boy." But we think that was her privilege as a private correspondent who adored him and may have shared with our national hero intimate moments we will never learn about.

Our intention was not to blemish Rizal's reputation, but to make him real, especially to young Filipinos. He was a great man, but he was also in some ways a typical lonely overseas Filipino, albeit one with an extraordinary love for his homeland.

—HOWIE G. SEVERINO,
GMA 7, Quezon City

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.



BAYWALK: Roxas Boulevard's newest feature

PDI PHOTO

'Vintas' at Manila Bay

LAST Jan 20, for the first time, my sisters, nephews and nieces and I were able to see for ourselves the beauty of the Baywalk, which as everybody knows came into being under the *"Buhayin ang Maynila"* project of Mayor Lito Atienza. The good mayor should be commended by the people for coming up with this very beautiful project.

To make the Baywalk area more attractive, I suggest that Mayor Atienza deploy colorful *vintas* (with their beautiful sails) along Manila Bay. Since people converge in that area at night, the sails of these *vintas* could be lighted for visual effect. I firmly believe that if and when this suggestion is implemented, our friendship and relationship with our Muslim brothers will be greatly enhanced.

—PAUL R. MORTEL,
MBLA Court,
Malanday, Marikina City

Unfair comment

I WRITE in connection with the column of Isagani Cruz last Jan. titled "A little common sense."

At the outset, allow me to state for the record that I own the wallet that was stolen at the New Bilibid Prisons last Dec. 2, 2004 when members of the minority bloc in the House of Representatives went there to share the Christmas spirit with prisoners.

That was the first time in my life that my wallet was stolen and, quite frankly, it did not feel good as I got the feeling of being violated. While, admittedly, I should've been more careful, I do not think it was fair for Cruz to describe it as "reckless (or stupid?)" on my part.

If at all, I might have been too trusting and relaxed given the fact that we distributed gifts to prisoners at the NBP and were in the process of having a dialogue with them regarding their problems and complaints when the incident occurred.

By the way, my wallet has since been returned with all of my IDs and cards intact but without the cash. The leaders of the different groups and organizations pooled their resources and came up with the cash that was lost, but I refused to accept it and asked Director Vicente Vinarao to just return the same and thank them for their gesture.

Although the incident was unfortunate, it will not deter us from pursuing our commitment to the prisoners at the NBP to work for the improvement of their living conditions and assist in the facilitation of their cases and appeals.

—REP. FRANCIS JOSEPH ESCUDERO,
First District, Province of Sorsogon

Jamby-Mike bickering not helping citizens

THE ONGOING bickering between Sen. Jamby Madrigal and Environment Secretary Mike Defensor is not helping the ordinary citizens likes us. Criticizing and blaming each other cannot bring back the lives of those who died in the recent and past flash floods.

In response to such calamities, the government always hastens to provide relief food, clothing and medicines. This is important, but we should also address the root of our environmental problems.

The Philippines is now one of the most severely deforested countries and most of the deforestation took place in the last 40 years. By 1960, our forest cover had decreased to 44.3 percent; by 1963, to 40 percent; by 1969, 34.9 percent; 1980, 27.1 percent and 1987, 22.2 percent. At the start of 1999, the remaining forest cover was estimated at 5.5 million hectares or 18.3 percent of the total land area; of this, only 800,000 hectares, or 2.7 percent of total land area, are primary forest. We continue to lose our forests at the rate of more than 100,000 hectares per year. Whether through legal or illegal means, the continued destruction of our forests by logging and mining operations threatens the very survival of our people. Our forests provide ecological services and resources that serve as the backbone for rural development, economic growth and poverty alleviation.

One may not easily see this, but water shortage in the cities and towns is connected with deforestation in the uplands. Forest degradation impacts on all other ecosystems. When mountains are denuded, watersheds are degraded and this means the loss of sustained water supplies for lowland communities.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources should go not only after small-scale illegal loggers, but also after giant and big-time operators whoever they are: government employees, military, corrupt politicians and even rebel groups. Ironically, government continues to pursue programs and policies that exploit our natural resources for immediate monetary returns. An example of this is the Supreme Court ruling declaring the Mining Act of 1995 constitutional, in effect trading off the country's long-term sustainability for financial gain that is medium-term at best.

In the face of these calamities, every Filipino should do his or her part in preserving the environment for our future generations. The People's Alternative Study Center for Research and Education in Social Development Inc. (Pascres), in partnership with Haribon Foundation and other environmental groups, calls for a total commercial log ban and a no-mining policy in the remaining natural forest areas.

—ROY A. CALFOFORO,
People's Alternative Study Center for Research and Education in Social Development Inc. (Pascres),
Room 203, Center for Community Services, Social Development Complex,
Loyola Heights, Quezon City

INQBOX

Dear Readers, Text us your comments, suggestions and views on today's news or how it was delivered. Tell us about the news you are interested in and the things you want improved in your favorite newspaper. Text INQUIRER <section keyword> name/city/message and send to 283 (Smart) or 2207 (Globe). The section keywords are indicated in the logo of each section.

Do you approve of MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando's "wet rag scheme" to minimize jaywalking in the Metro streets? Why or why not?

It's better kung may device na mag-e-electrocute sa mga wala sa tamang lugar. Parang kay B.F. Skinner.
—eric solis, *muntinlupa*

NO! hi time 4 realization: Enforce d law on jaywalking: Impose corresponding penalties dat way 2 birds n shot jaywalkers
—Lauro Isorena, *Pasay City*

THUMBS UP 4 MMDA 4 MAKING A GOOD MOVE. KEEP IT UP, BF!
—Desiree Guevara, *Quezon City*

approve ako dyan! Kasi some of our fellow tigas ulo pinoys want 2b treated like idiots. simpleng patakaran di masunod. kelangan.
—ariel pabayo, *bacoor, cavite*

YES, YES! Tama yun para matuto na mga taong walang paki! sumunod na nga kayo! Puro kayo reklamo!
—zhienna bernal, *davao city*

wet rag scheme: If u treat adults like kids, they will act like one, might just retaliate rather than follow rules.
—gnet r. abella, *santiago city*

yes 2 discipline pedestrians.
—jocey valdenor, *marikina city*

yes, dat would be nice 4 a total wet look of embarrassment! you learn from ur mistakes!
—ronald ramos, *urdaneta city*

keep it up MMDA-Mga mamamasa ng mga Mamamayan Dahil Ayaw nila sumunod! what is d use of making mistakes if u will not learn from them?
—elmer Guevara, *urdaneta city*

NO, simply because everybody deserves DUE PROCESS and such act is inhumane, no one is above the law.
—Ern Dancel, *Urdaneta City*

sa ikauunlad ng bayan, basahan ang kelangan?

yes, para maturuan ang mga tao na sumunod sa mga patakaran at batas, kc kung hindi sila matuto Kailan PA!
—zenaida caguioa, *urdaneta city*

yes, it shud help us, myself included, 2 b more disciplined. Fernando is doing a great job.
—Gerard Gumban, *davao city*

yes, its worthy trying anything to instill discipline to errant people, anyway they wont get the fate of getting w
—george mangonon, *lingayen*

no, by no means a traffic violation can be corrected by a human rights violation.
—Noel madrid, *bulacan*

yes, i approve of d wet rag scheme 2 minimize jaywalking coz it gives us d discipline we need as Filipinos.
—gilda Miguel, *san mateo, rizal*

wet rag scheme is ok 4 me. it will surely discipline jaywalkers. its 4 d safety of everybody anyway. i fully agree.
—Jigger Solis, *San Fabian*

The MMDA Chair should concentrate in disciplining drivers as there will b no jaywalkers when there is discipline
—JOFREY DE LA CRUZ, *Manila*

Yup! The jaywalkers might be awakened by the latest move of MMDA chair B. Fernando.
—Liza Lomerez, *Occ. Mindoro*

NO, it's anti-POOR. Why? U don't see rich people walking because they can afford to buy cars ending with odd numbers as we can't.
—Ern Dancel, *Urdaneta City*

Why not? MMDA is on d rite track—someone has 2 do something constructive—nothing does itself!
—ronald ramos, *urdaneta city*

MMDA is just doing der job, ders but one test 2 do d best wc works wid all d strength.
—elmer Guevara, *urdaneta city*

YES to WET RAG SCHEME! It is time 2 show 2 d world dat Filipinos are law-abiding citizens not lawbreakers.
—Romy Almonte, *Taguig*

yes, this radical solution may be the answer to prevent jaywalking.
—Erben Orpilla, *quezon city*

yes, why not? anything that will ease traffic and instill discipline to our commuters, i definitely go for it!
—lanie b samonte, *calasiao, pangasinan*

no. bcuz it will create troubles 4 those travelers from other places not aware of dat law.
—nenita vidal, *iligan city*

yes sa tigas ng ulo ng mga tao sa mla, ang wet rag scheme ay dapat lang sa kanila para lang mabawasan ang jaywalkng
—barbara ferrer, *urdaneta city, pangasinan*

di naman jaywalking (yung problema) kundi un pagpara sa gitna ng daan...
—Bryan Parreñas, *Iloilo*

to discipline and to teach this violators a lesson.
—kenneth agudo, *makati city*

No. Because it seems like an expensive temporary gimmick. We should spend for long term solutions like underpasses
—carlo san juan, *Muntinlupa*

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9256
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION
E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback: inquirer atn name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

Power co-ops say gov't killing them to save Napocor

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—As government tries to help debt-ridden National Power Corp. (Napocor) pull itself out of financial losses, it is at the same time killing small electric cooperatives.

This was the lament of officials of the Nueva Vizcaya Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Nuvelco) as they parried complaints from consumers here over the recent sharp increase in their electric bills.

General manager Patrick Flores said the Nuvelco, just like other electric cooperatives, was being bled to death by government, forcing it to carry the burden of Napocor's power rates while trying to cushion its impact on end users.

Nuvelco has been under fire after consumers here noted a marked increase in their electric bills for the past two months.

Residents complained that the high power bills came at a time when thousands of households in the province were without electricity for as long as two weeks due to the damage wrought by Typhoon "Yoyong" in December last year.

Passing on

Flores said the higher rates charged by Napocor were passed on by cooperatives like Nuvelco to their consumers. Otherwise, these cooperatives would collapse, he said.

He said Napocor's rate increases were being triggered by the firm's debts. The cost-recovery schemes are supposedly allowed by the Energy Regulation Commission (ERC) and sanctioned by the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) of 2001.

Flores expressed concern that the full implementation of the Epira would spell doom for the 119 electric cooperatives in the country.

Such a move by the government was deliberate, according to him, as the eventual phaseout of consumer-owned cooperatives would allow the takeover by multinational companies of power distribution ventures.

Cooperatives have long been protesting the onerous provisions of the Epira, Flores said, adding that even the efforts of the Philippine Electric Cooperatives Association to block the measure have gone to naught.

Disappointment

Fonchito Gallevo, Nuvelco director, expressed disappointment over what he said was the government's arm-twisting of electric cooperatives to comply with its "conflicting" objectives.

"We are being required to bring electricity to every remote barangay in line with government's energization program. Yet, we are required to lower our systems losses below the 14-percent cap [set forth by the Epira]," he added.

Gallevo said systems losses suffered by electric cooperatives are mainly caused by energy lost from long stretches of power lines that are laid out to reach far-flung villages.

"The national government wants us to be efficient in our services in an environment that does not allow any room for efficiency," he added.

Among the other ERC and Epira impositions being questioned is the Transition Power Supply Contract, which, according to Gallevo, binds Nuvelco to purchase electricity from Napocor until it is fully privatized. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Graft keeping Aurora typhoon victims homeless, says priest

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Alleged vested interests of local officials over lands, unaccounted donations and missing logs have delayed the resettlement of more than 1,000 families left homeless by the flash floods and landslides in Dingalan, Aurora, since November, the parish priest there told the INQUIRER yesterday.

"It has been two months and not one family has been relocated," Fr. Antonio Evangelio, speaking by phone, said.

He said Mayor Jaime Ylarde had refused to use a declared settlement in Barangay Tanauan because he, municipal budget officer Ester Felipe and other department heads were building their homes in the same village.

Ylarde, he added, insisted on developing a 1.5-hectare lot in Barangay Caragsakan despite existing claims on the same land by 40 farmers.

The disputed area was bulldozed in December without consultations with the claimants and surveyed without a permit. It is part of a four-hectare land being claimed by 300 farmers since 1996, Evangelio said.

Ylarde, reached by phone, said he was not having a house built in Tanauan. He confirmed, though, that some department heads were building their homes there.

The problem, he said, was that most properties in Tanauan were private and that the municipal government did not have the money for land acquisition.

The local government, he said, was relying on land donations. Green Circle Resources and Properties, for example, was planning to give 15 hectares in Barangay Umiray, one of the seriously landslides-hit villages.

Evangelio asked Ylarde to study the propriety of that, saying Green Circle was among those blamed for denuding the forests of Aurora and Quezon.

"There still are many alienable and disposable lands in the town that appear to be safe for relocation," Evangelio said.

Lands were the counterpart of the local government in the resettlement program supported by the Gawad Kalinga, Philippine National Red Cross and Sen. Edgardo Angara, whose sister was accused by his colleague, Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago, of involvement in illegal logging.

As for donations, Evangelio said he asked an accounting of these last week during the meeting of the Sangguniang Bayan. Officials, he said, did not present a report.

The priest said he wanted an accounting of the P2 million handed by President Macapagal-Arroyo in her Dec. 2 visit to Dingalan, P1 million from the national government for the rehabilitation of the town and the local government's 5-percent calamity funds.

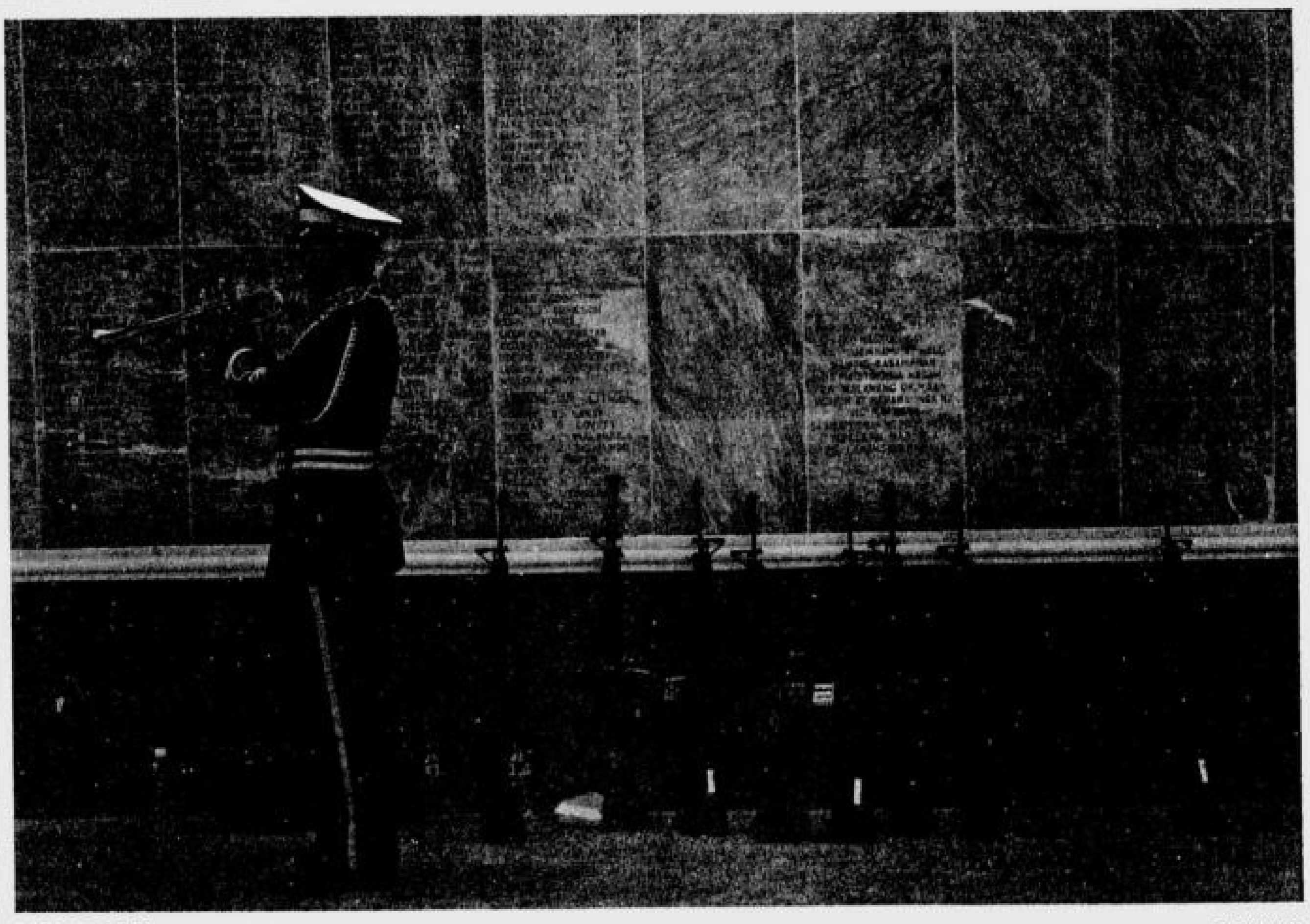
He scored Ylarde for claiming to have no funds to buy lots while spending P80,000 daily on diesel for equipment used in road clearing operations.

Last week, he said, the mayor handed P3,000 in cash to municipal employees.

As for the logs washed out during the series of landslides and which the President ordered set aside for the homeless families, Evangelio said these went to traders.

"At the improvised sawmill (in a cockpit arena in Barangay Paltic), only the moneyed people are having the timber cut. The poor residents are not getting even one flitch," he said. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo surveys relief goods stored at the National Disaster Coordinating Council warehouse shortly after tragedy struck Quezon and Aurora provinces last year. PCPO



MEMORIAL

A Philippine Army soldier plays the trumpet to honor the soldiers who gave their lives up in the struggle to free the Philippines from Japanese occupation in World War II. The soldiers' names are etched on the marble that serves as a monument to their heroism and courage. RAFFY LERMA

Plan to build Lanao Hall of Justice coming true

COTABATO CITY—A Supreme Court project to build a multimillion-peso Hall of Justice in Lanao del Sur early this year may finally push through after a historic site for the project has been found.

Justice Christopher Lock, commissioned by Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. to carry out the project, said Malabang, a coastal town of Lanao del Sur, is an ideal location because it was the late SC Chief Justice Jose Abad Santos' resting place.

Lock was convinced when he agreed in principle that the SC and the Department of Education in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao should enter into an agreement after the DepEd ARMM offered to donate a 5,000 sqm property in Malabang.

ARMM education chief Leovigilda Cinches said preparations are under way for the agreement signing set next month.

Cinches ordered District Schools Supervisor Zenaida Ampatua to speed up land transfer documentation.

The SC has allotted P2 million for the project. *Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

German charged with Boracay slays missing

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Police are hunting a German national charged with last year's killings of three foreigners and one Filipino on Boracay Island in Aklan after he left the island days before the warrant for his arrest came out.

A "tracking team" has been sent out to locate and arrest Uwe Friesl, said Senior Supt. Jose Jorge Corpuz, Criminal Investigation and Detection Group director for Western Visayas.

Corpuz said they lost track of Friesl who was spotted in Manila early this month. "He will be arrested on sight," Corpuz told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Jamie Ma. Flores II, Friesl's lawyer, maintained his client's innocence.

"He is in the country but is very concerned about his safety," Flores said in a telephone interview. "He will not resist if he is arrested."

Flores said he would file on Tuesday a motion to recall the arrest warrant issued by the Aklan Regional Trial Court Branch 6.

He said the warrant should not have been issued because the case is still in the preliminary investigation stage.

When asked if he knew where his client was, the lawyer said he maintained contact with Friesl only through mobile telephone. "He did not tell me where he is and I did not ask."

Hold departure

The justice department earlier issued a hold departure order against Friesl.

Flores said he would also file a motion for reconsideration before the Aklan provincial prosecutor's office questioning the resolution indicting his client for the murder of three foreigners and a Filipino in the island-resort last May.

The 10-page resolution dated Jan. 5 but released on Jan. 10 charged Friesl with four counts of murder for the killing of fellow German Anton Forstenhausler, Swiss-born vineyard owner Manfred Schoeni, Hong Kong-based architect John James Cowperthwaite and Forstenhausler's Filipino maid Erma Sarmiento.

New bill allows LGUs to reject casinos, says solon

BAGUIO CITY—Rep. Mauricio Domogan said a House bill seeking the extension of the franchise of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. by 25 more years benefits Baguio because it allows the city government to refuse the entry of a casino operation.

Domogan, Lakas' Cordillera coordinator, said in a press briefing here last week that he inserted a provision in House Bill 3409 that requires Pagcor to seek the permission of local communities before it can operate in their areas.

The measure was passed on third and final reading on Jan. 20 despite opposition from the Roman Catholic Church.

Pagcor's original franchise, which ends in 2008, grants it overriding powers over local government initiatives or opposition.

Domogan, a former Baguio mayor, said he would have faced legal and administrative sanctions when he blocked the entry of Pagcor's Bingo-2-Ball in 2001 here, had President Joseph Estrada not been ousted from office.

But the lawmaker said he supported Pagcor's franchise extension because the Philippines is now competing with countries like Vietnam and Cambodia in luring bigtime foreign gamblers.

"Pagcor is the third biggest revenue generating agency of government... it has an annual income of more than P20 billion and that is where the [government] funds the indigent patients," he said.

In announcing Pagcor's obeisance to local governments, Domogan made no reference to the Baguio casino, a private initiative that became an issue in the May 2004 elections.

The previous administration changed a resolution covering the development of Camp John Hay to allow a private firm to operate a casino inside the former American facility.

A city council resolution prohibited the Camp John Hay developers from operating a casino. The resolution, which details 19 conditions for the conversion of Camp John Hay into a tourism estate, limited its entertainment operations to "family-oriented activities."

But the previous Lakas-dominated city council voted to remove this provision in 2003 when it allowed Royal Highlands Gaming Corp. to operate a casino for Pagcor inside Camp John Hay. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Sarangani oil slick alarms, angers gov

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Gov. Miguel Dominguez expressed alarm over the continuous dumping of oil, grease and wastes into the Sarangani Bay, calling on government agencies and the private sector to cooperate or "I will be your biggest nightmare."

In a meeting last week, he called on a multi-agency group to closely monitor the disposal of oil and grease by shipping, canning and fishing firms following reports of an oil slick in Sarangani Bay.

"I would be your biggest nightmare if I do not see any cooperation from you," the governor warned.

Dominguez called various concerned government agencies and other stakeholders to a meeting after seeing, during an aerial inspection, a wide stretch of oil slick in some parts of the bay, particularly near the Makar Wharf and the General Santos City fish port.

A study conducted in 2001 by the Coastal Resource Management Project (CRMP) said "oil and grease seem to be the most common pollutants."

The study said oil and grease came mostly from major shipping firms, fishing companies, canneries and multinational corporations along the industrial strip of coastal Barangays Labangal, Calumpang and Tambler here.

CRMP is a DENR project and funded by the United States Agency for International Development.

CRMP added in its report, "Coastal Environment Profile of the Sarangani Bay Area," the presence of industries like canneries and fish processing plants which have been the subject of complaint not only for emitting stench but also because of dumping wastes into the bay.

Dominguez said he has been monitoring the bay for five years every time he planes in from Davao to General Santos.

The governor said he believes the widening area covered by the oil slick is caused by the continuous dumping of oil and grease and wastes in the bay.

He challenged officials of the Environment Management Bureau, DENR, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine Ports Authority, Maritime Industry Authority, General Santos City fish port and the business sector to help find solutions.

"What I demand from the different agencies this time is to start finding solutions to the problem. I am willing to work with you, but if you do not cooperate, I would tell you I can become your biggest nightmare," the governor said.

Sarangani Bay, with a total area of 449 square kilometers, has been declared a protected seascape by former President Ramos. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Tanong ng Bayan

Win a cellcard daily and a cellphone weekly

I-text ang inyong "fearless view" sa 2910. Pipiliin namin ang pinakamagaling na sagot.

Ang premyo:
Cellcard kada araw!
Cellphone kada linggo!

INQ TV
ABC

I-type lang ang:
INQTV < inyong sagot>, <buong pangalan>, <edad>, <siyudad o probinsiya>, at ipadala sa 2910. Winners will be identified on InqTV .Thursdays on ABC.

Cut-off time: WEDNESDAY, 4pm

text 2910

RP media: Nagkulang ba sa good news?

For Sun, Smart and Globe subscribers

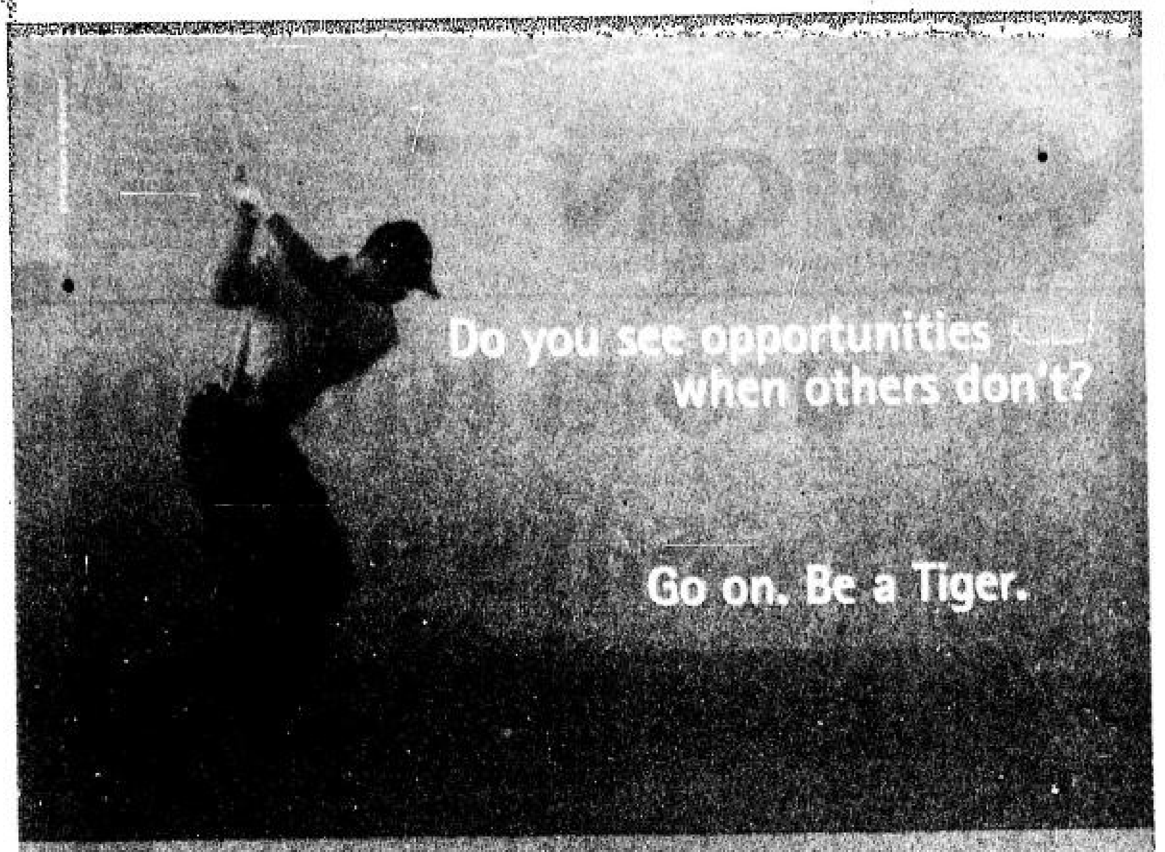
Congrats, Edgardo Malayang ng Makati City!
Nanalo ka ng P500 cellphone load!

"and now d gudnews! rp media now realizes dat dey lack enaf balanz news & ddnt giv much focus on d news about d gudlife."

Tumawag lamang sa 8978808 at hanapin si Leslie Perez o si Dennis Leung.

Cellcard kada araw, cellphone kada linggo!

Text na!


Do you see opportunities when others don't?
Go on. Be a Tiger.

Come to our Finance and Accounting Career Search, 2-4 February 2005

There's nothing like getting results from what you do. At Accenture Finance Solutions, the global leader in finance and accounting business process outsourcing, results matter because you'll have a front-line role, helping global clients become high-performance businesses. We're part of Accenture, one of the world's leading management consulting, technology services and outsourcing companies, and we can offer you greater scope and more opportunities to develop your career.

If you are a Finance and Accounting professional with 3-15 years' work experience or if you have an Accounting degree, then come to our career search. Those who are aspiring to be Managers must have a minimum of 2 years managerial experience, while those who want to be Supervisors must have at least 1 year's experience in that position. We need candidates with relevant experience in accounts payable, accounts receivable, general accounting, sales and inventory accounting, cost accounting, fixed assets and treasury. Having SAP experience is also an advantage.

Bring a copy of your updated resume and visit us in any of our career search schedules on 2-4 February at the 10th Floor, ICO Conference Hall, Tower 2, The Enterprise Center, Paseo de Roxas cor. Ayala Avenue, Makati City from 8:30am to 4:00pm.

Visit accenture.com/philippines/services

• Consulting • Technology • Outsourcing

accenture
Finance Solutions

Alagang lubos. Alagang Biogesic.
BIOGESIC
500
Paracetamol
BIOGESIC
If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.

Aurora, Nueva Ecija governors deny illegal logging raps

**By Tonette Orejas
and Anselmo S. Roque**
PDI Central Luzon Desk

AURORA Gov. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo described the statement of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago linking her to illegal logging as "stupid" and "untrue."

In a phone interview, Castillo said the Angara clan "has never been or will never be engaged in illegal logging."

"What proof does (Santiago) have? Where did she get her information?" the governor asked, saying [illegible] wanted to get a copy of the senator's speech.

"No one in Aurora," she added, "will ever believe (Santiago's) claim."

Castillo, a lawyer and who completed three terms as a member of the House of Representatives, said the Angaras had won in local elections on the basis of their pro-environment programs.

But the New People's Army in Aurora tagged opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara and his relatives as protectors of 10 logging companies in the province.

In a statement sent to local radio station dzJO-FM on Jan. 20, a certain Ka Delfin, spokesperson of the NPA's Domingo Erlano Command, said Angara's protection of logging firms helped him win elections since the 1980s. The statement was read in an early morning show.

Angara's political power and his continued control of timber companies and other businesses have ensured his clan's rule over Aurora, according to Ka Delfin. The NPA leader was referring to Angara's sister, Gov. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo, his brother, Baler Mayor Arthur, and his son, Rep. Juan Edgardo.

In Nueva Ecija, Gov. Tomas Joson III said no Joson was involved in illegal logging.

Joson said his family was against illegal logging since the Josons began ruling the province. His late father Eduardo was governor for more than three decades. Eduardo was replaced as governor by Tomas' brother Eduardo Nonato.

Tomas is now on his third and last term as governor.

Although he was not directly mentioned as being involved in illegal logging by Santiago, Joson said he was probably being faulted for cases of illegal logging in Nueva Ecija.

But he said his actions would prove that he had been actively involved in the campaign to stop illegal logging in the province since he became governor in 1992.

At present, he said, many confiscated logs and vehicles used for transporting illegally cut lumber are impounded at the provincial capitol compound in Palayan City. Their owners are now facing charges.

Joson admitted that illegal logging had been going on in Gabaldon town but he said he had instructed his men to put a stop to it.

"Give to local executives the control and supervision of our forests. We can stop illegal logging or otherwise we will be directly responsible for its proliferation," he said.

Santiago identifies RP's 'big-time illegal loggers'

From page A1

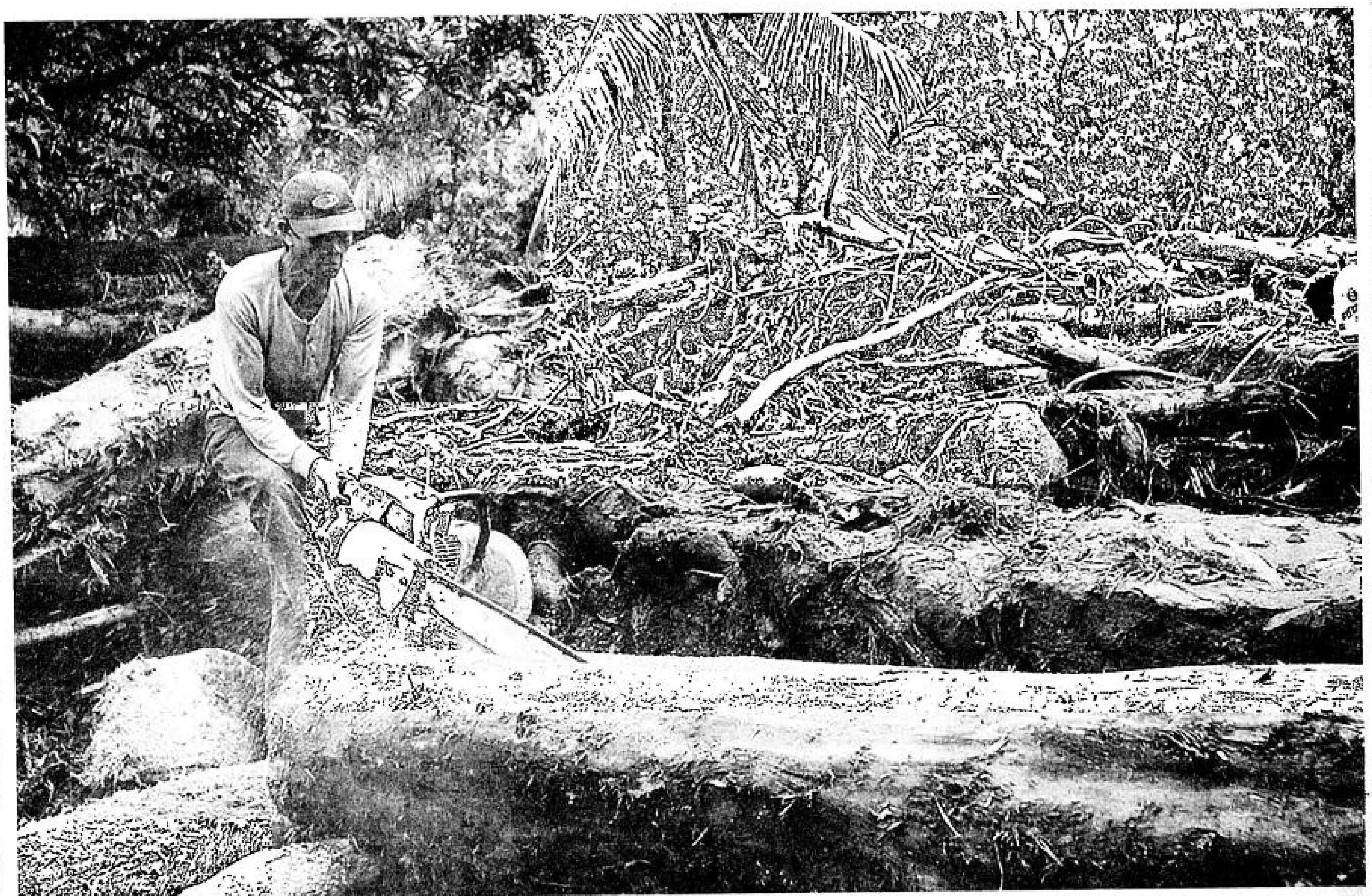
tion that follows in the wake of one or a series of tropical cyclones," Santiago said.

Retribution

She said the government should first fully understand "this complex threat to our environment security" so that it could address the problem and initiate reforms.

"And the first step to reform is to exact criminal retribution from illegal loggers and their political patrons," she said.

Santiago split into four groups the notorious illegal loggers (those charged in the top 10 illegal logging cases already filed in court based on the value of the logs involved), the alleged big-time illegal loggers, the alleged most deadly illegal loggers, and persons identified by public officials and nongovernmental organizations as big-time illegal loggers. *(For Groups 1 and 3, see lists on Page A1. For Groups 2 and 4, see lists on this page.)*



ILLEGAL logging and mining caused landslides triggered by typhoons in November last year, burying houses in Barangay Paltic, Dingalan, Aurora. Now the village looks like a logging concession where residents cut up the logs for income.

RICO GONZALES

Deadly loggers

According to Santiago, the alleged most deadly illegal loggers, their modus operandi and areas of operation are as follows:

- Antonio Libuangan, operation code-name: "Ay-Enng." He is said to be operating within the areas of Laak, Loreto and Veruela in Agusan del Sur and Compostela Valley.

He uses recycled or fake transport documents like the certificate of timber and lumber origin issued by the government. He is said to supply illegally sourced logs to such sawmills or veneer plants as Alcantara and Sons-WPP, Fancy Panel-WPP in Panakan in Davao City and Tagum Premium Plywood Manufacturing Corp.

Using bulldozers and 10-wheel trucks, he transports logs from 12 a.m. to 5 a.m. escorted by policemen. He is said to connive with DENR officials who in turn get a monthly payoff of P1 million.

- Rolly Ma, operation code-name: "Datu." He is said to be operating in New Bataan, Compostela Valley and in Cateel, Mati, up to Bagangga in Davao Oriental.

He allegedly owns a sash factory in Davao City and a veneer plant in Davao del Sur. He is said to be a protegé of a former secretary for special concerns in the Arroyo administration.

Ma is also said to be a protégé of a certain congressman in his area. His operation is said to be used as a front for alleged upland development projects in Mindanao by the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Newspaper business

- Picop Resources Inc. (PRI). This is said to be owned by Teodoro Bernardino, who is licensed to cut logs in Surigao del Sur and Agusan del Sur but is allegedly operating beyond the area approved for logging.

Bernardino is said to be a protegé of a certain congressman whom he supplies with paper for the legislator's newspaper business.

- A certain Mr. Baluyot, who allegedly owns a wood processing plant called Magnum Wood Core that buys illegally sourced logs. His corporation owns three mini-veneer plants, one of which is in Tagum City and said to be operating without a DENR permit.
- Tony Ong, who allegedly owns Lechang Corp., known as 747 Lumber. He also owns a wood processing plant in Compostela Valley, which allegedly gets its raw materials from illegal logging operations outside licensed areas.
- Shaway Uy, who owns a wood processing plant in Makilala, Kidapawan, which gets its raw materials outside licensed areas.

Main officials responsible

Santiago said governors of provinces where illegal logging was rampant were "the main public officials responsible for the fatal after-effects of illegal logging."

She said that under the Local Government Code, these officials and members of the provincial board were duty-bound to protect the resources of their provinces.

"When illegal logging takes place in a certain municipality, the mayor and the barangay chair are guilty; but the governor and the provincial board are more guilty," she said.

Santiago suggested that governors of provinces where illegal cutting of trees was rampant be held responsible for the crime of illegal logging.

"Because in Philippine politics, illegal loggers are often the major campaign contributors, thus precipitating both the blindness of public officials to what is going on right under their noses, and in some cases, even the devious defensive tactics of such public officials, when their favorite illegal loggers are mentioned in the media," she said.

Public outcry

Santiago said the public outcry could be muted "if only we could send to jail at least one senator, Cabinet member, or governor for acting either as a principal or as an accessory to the crime of illegal logging."

She said chainsaws used by these illegal loggers were operated at "such high decibels" that it was impossible these governors did not know about them.

The incumbent and former governors are the following:

- Aurora: Bellaflor Angara-Castillo (2004-07), Ramoncita Ong (2001-04) and Edgardo Ong (1998-2001).
- Quezon: Wilfrido Energa (1998-2001).
- Nueva Ecija, Tomas Joson (1998-2007).
- Bukidnon: Jose Ma. Zubiri (2001-07) and Carlos Fortich (1998-2001).
- Camiguin: Pedro Romualdo (1998-2007).
- Misamis Occidental: Loreto Leo Ocampos (2001-07) and Ernie Clarete (1998-2001).
- Misamis Oriental: Oscar Moreno (2004-07) and Antonio Calingin (1998-2004).
- Lanao del Norte: Imelda Dimaporo (1998-2007).
- Compostela Valley: Jose Caballero (1998-2007).
- Davao del Norte: Gelacio Gementiza (2004-07) and Rodolfo del Rosario (1998-2004).
- Davao Oriental: Ma Elena Palma-Gil (2001-07) and Rosalinda Lopez (1998-2001).
- Cotabato: Emmanuel Piñol(1998-2007).
- South Cotabato: Daisy Fuentes (2001-07) and Hilario de Pedro III (1998-2001).
- Sultan Kudarat: Datu Pax Mangudadatu (2001-07) and Pacdong Mangudadatu (1998-2001).
- Sarangani: Miguel Rene Dominguez (2004-07), Miguel Escobar (2001-04) and Priscilla Chiongban(1998-2001).

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Mike Defensor appears to have two heads as he interacts with squatters in Barangay Commonwealth in Quezon City.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Alleged big-time illegal loggers

1. Romy Roxas of Green Circle Development Corp.
2. Benito Ching, subcontractor of Romy Roxas
3. William Marquez
4. Mayor Hernando Avellaneda, General Nakar, Quezon
5. Ricardo Avellaneda, brother of the above mayor
6. Ronnie Avellaneda, brother of the above mayor
7. Barangay chair David Prudente, Barangay Batangan, General Nakar, Quezon, conduit, purchaser of illegal logs together with Ricardo Avellaneda
8. John Lim

Persons alleged by public officials and NGOs to be big-time illegal loggers:

	Persons	Place	Named by
1.	Benson Ching and Angelito Chan	Umiray	Secretary Herson Alvarez
2.	Pinga Chua	Mauban, Quezon	Heherson Alvarez
3	Wilson and William Marquez	Infanta, Quezon	Heherson Alvarez
4.	"Trajano" and Frank Chua		Juan Ponce Enrile
5.	The owners of Furniture Group Inc. and Nagan Forestry Development Corp.		Apayao Nature Watch through Bambina Perez
6.	Rosy Bal, Francisco Bal Jr., Fontina Pacuribut, Susana Factor and Eddie Bulacan		Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer, or Cenro for southern Nueva Ecija led by Joselito Blanco
7.	Enrique Amarillo	Mauban, Quezon	DENR Task Force for Illegal Logging through retired Gen. Alfonso Dagudag
8.	Mayor Irenia Hitgana	Trento, Agusan del Sur	DENR Task Force for Illegal Logging through retired Gen. Alfonso Dagudag
9.	Sonny Barrios	Bunawan, Agusan del Sur	DENR Task Force for Illegal Logging through retired Gen. Alfonso Dagudag

- Albay: Fernando Gonzales (2004-07) and Al Francis Bichara (1998-2004).
- Camarines Norte: Jesus Typoco (2001-07) and Jess Pimentel.
- Camarines Sur: Luis Raymund Villafuerte Jr. (1998-2007).
- Catanduanes: Leandro Verceles Jr. (2001-07) and Hector Sanchez (1998-2001).
- Masbate: Antonio Kho (1998-2007).
- Sorsogon: Raul Lee (1998-2007).
- Leyte: Carlos Jericho Petilla (2004-07) and Remedios Petilla (1998-2004).
- Agusan del Sur: Adolph Edward Plaza (2001-07) and Valentina Plaza (1998-2001).
- Surigao del Sur: Vicente Pimentel Jr. (2001-07) and Primo Murillo (1998-2001).

Reacting to Santiago's privilege speech, Sen. Jamby Madrigal reminded the feisty senator that in the final analysis, environment officials led by her nephew were to blame for the destruction of the forest cover in the country.

"I'm glad to know that Senator Santiago has also taken up the cudgels for the environment," Madrigal said in an interview in the Senate.

"But don't spare DENR officials," said Madrigal, who wanted Environment Secretary Defensor (son of Santiago's cousin Rep. Mat Defensor) to resign from his post for erroneously saying that the Madrigal family was still involved in logging and mining concessions in Aurora and Quezon. *With a report from Michael Lim Ubac*

This developer burns money and cuts trees

From page A1

private land timber license (SPLTL) covering 28,000 hectares of land in Aurora and Quezon, an area much bigger than Quezon City and larger even than Batanes. It is the biggest privately owned property in what Roxas has called the country's "Wild, Wild East."

Green Circle's timber area is spread out over the towns of Dingalan, Aurora and General Nakar, Quezon, and is one of only five timber license holders in Aurora.

An SPLTL is like a timber license agreement but involves private land, alienable or forest land, or disposable land covering a huge area. Harvesting of hardwood trees is one of the privileges given to SPLTL holders.

Green Circle has become the object of ire of lawmakers and environment groups for what they say is its role in the denudation of the forests of Dingalan and General Nakar, which they believe is partly to blame for the massive flooding and loss of lives in the aftermath of four killer typhoons that hit eastern Luzon in the second week of November and the first week of December last year.

To them, Roxas' activities in his timber area are yet another proof that the current antilogging campaign is nothing more than a quick fix largely made for media mileage, rather than an actual long-term solution to a festering problem.

Critics of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and its head, Michael Defensor, have also noted that the agency's much-publicized raids have targeted not big-time players but medium-sized illegal loggers.

Just clearing my land

Judging Green Circle by its owner alone, it is understandable why many see the company as one of the big-time players.

Roxas is a well-connected lawyer and entrepreneur, who has brokered deals and done business with various government agencies since the 1970s. His latest venture is the deal he made with the cash-strapped preneed company College Assurance Plan. He is exchanging 3,000 ha of Green Circle land in Baler, Aurora, for CAP shares of stock.

But Roxas has repeatedly said, "I am not a logger. I am just clearing my land!" He says he cannot understand why he and his company have become the subject of public wrath when in fact his endeavors were all endorsed at the highest levels of government.

"My project has been declared a national flagship project by two presidents: Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada," he says. "I don't know why I am being branded an illegal logger. Government knows what I am doing. They know that I am cutting trees. How can they not know when they approved it themselves?"

The project he is referring to is a gargantuan infrastructure venture called the "New Pacific Coast Cities," which is being sold as an alternative to Metro Manila. It will include an industrial city, a government center and housing and tourism sites, as well as a university town, all of which will rise on 20,000 ha of land.

In January 2000, Estrada himself signed a proclamation declaring a Special Economic and Tourism Zone in the very areas where Green Circle land is—the Umiray area, both in Dingalan, Aurora, and in General Nakar, Quezon. This whole swath is to be known as the "Pacific Coast City Ecozone."

Classmates, frat brods

How Roxas managed to wangle approval from high places may not be so surprising if one looks at his background.

A member of the University of the Philippines College of Law Class of 1961, Roxas counts among his classmates banker Manuel Zamora, one of Estrada's key supporters, as well as Magdangal Elma, who has been part of government since the time of Ferdinand Marcos, continuing on to the administrations of Corazon Aquino, Ramos, Estrada and even President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Another former classmate is Andres Gatmaitan of the Sycip Salazar law firm. Elma and Gatmaitan, along with John C. B. Go of Equitable PCIBank, are in fact listed as stockholders of Green Square Properties and Resources Inc., which owns part of Green Circle.

Roxas is also a member of the influential Sigma Rho Fraternity of the UP College of Law, whose members are spread out over various branches and levels of government and the private sector. They include Senate President Franklin Drilon, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, Sen. Edgardo Angara (whose family is the new political force in Aurora), Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo and Supreme Court Justice Antonio Carpio, to name a few.

It was Estrada's environment secretary, Antonio Cerilles, who granted Green Circle SPLTL No. 5, a permit to cut and transport trees. The document granting the permit was undated but released sometime in late 1999.

Green Circle had waited three years for that SPLTL. Cerilles' predecessor, Victor Ramos, had hesitated in approving the application because the company did not just plan to cut and harvest trees. It wanted to clear some parts, develop it, and even build a theme park.

Threat to Dumagats

Residents in and around Umiray in Dingalan and General Nakar fear that Roxas' project will destroy their environment. They are asking the DENR to revoke Green Circle's SPLTL, because of, among other things, "its grave threat (to) and effect (on) the livelihood and culture of the indigenous people."

A 2001 study done by the Integrated Rural Development Foundation (IRDF) says Green Circle's area is Dumagat land, and its operations encroach on ancestral domain.

The study adds: "Soil erosion and siltation are also evident as shown by the brownish color of the river. This condition proves that there are ongoing activities in surrounding mountains and hills which caused landslides and movement of the top soil that rainwater carries to the Umiray River."

Green Circle is only the latest in a line of companies that have been logging in Aurora. Its land used to be owned by Don Andres Soriano before it fell into the hands of Roberto Gopuansuy, owner of South Eastern Timber Corp., from whom Roxas eventually bought the property.

Hardwood gone

After nearly 40 years of commercial logging, the big hardwood trees are gone; what remains is mostly residual forest. Says the IRDF study of Green Circle's area of operations:

"The actual site investigation revealed that there are not enough forest trees of allowable size within the Operational Plan sites. There is no basis for the approval of SPLTL No. 5 by former (Environment) Secretary Antonio H. Cerilles because most of the forest trees in the area did not reach the minimum 60 centimeters dbh [diameter at breast height, or 4 1/2 feet above ground level] tree size as required under DENR Administrative Order No. 12 issued on April 1, 1992."

But Roxas believes that all these laws and regulations do not apply to Green Circle, since he is turning the land into real estate development, and not cutting trees for wood.

"They are applying forest laws on me, but I am not within the framework of any of these laws," he says. "I am not covered by any existing forestry law."

As Roxas sees it, he is only being used as a scapegoat for the government's anti-illegal logging crusade because the DENR has been unable to make much headway in its campaign.

In fairness to the DENR, though, running after loggers is a difficult and often dangerous task. Since the martial law years, when logging—legal and illegal—was at its peak, logging magnates have been roaming the corridors of the department, seeking and giving out favors.

Fortunes built on logging

Out in the field, foresters could find themselves facing armed goons who stand guard along dark and desolate logging roads, protecting logging areas against intrusive outsiders, especially earnest agents of government.

It is also an open secret that some of the country's richest families built their fortunes on logging. The family of Sen. Jamby Madrigal, current nemesis of Defensor, was among them, as were the Moratos, Plazas, Antoninos, Alcantaras and Consunjis.

All over the country, those who dream of similar wealth go into logging. Illegal loggers encountered by DENR foresters include politicians and military officials in faraway places, such as Mindanao. In other parts of the country, businessmen act as financiers encouraging impoverished local residents to cut trees and buying whatever they harvest.

Apart from the wanton deforestation, such practices result in government losses because forest fees are not levied on these loggers.

Yet pinning illegal logging charges on Green Circle and making those charges stick may be a huge challenge. Roxas and Defensor are looking at the problem from different points of view, and largely because Green Circle had been given the green light by various administrations, including the present one.

PVB loans

Even his entry into Philippine Veterans Bank (PVB) had government support, according to Roxas. During the Ramos administration, Roxas was tapped to revive the bank that went bankrupt in 1985.

"I financed the opening of the bank," Roxas points out.

He even cites the P4,000 monthly pension World War II Veterans now receive, which was a paltry P500 when he first got on board. "We lobbied, we worked for that," he says.

But a group of veterans who have organized themselves into the Crusade to Reform Veterans' Organization (Crevo) believes Roxas used the bank to expand his businesses. Crevo members have charged Roxas and other bank officials with plunder and violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

In a complaint filed with the Office of the Ombudsman in 2002, they said:

"Board member Romeo Roxas established two companies, the Green Square Properties of which he is a director, and the Green Circle Properties of which he is president as well as director. The total paid-up capital of these corporations amounted to P600,000. Yet these undercapitalized corporations were granted loans by PVB as approved by (its president Emmanuel) de Ocampo to the tune of a staggering P66.8 million."

Crevo also cited another Roxas company, Green Dreams Holdings, where both Roxas and De Ocampo are directors, as having secured another P35 million for a real estate project in Cavite "whose collateral has likewise been bloated."

In addition, the group says, Roxas is not really a dependent of a veteran, his father being a former education superintendent. Therefore, the veterans argue, Roxas has no legal right to sit on the PVB board.

Roxas, however, says that his father was indeed a veteran, and that he is doing his father's fellow soldiers a service by his work at the bank.

Included in the case against Roxas is Pilarica Ejercito, sister of former President Estrada, who was appointed PVB director sometime in 1999. It was during that time that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) was conducting an examination of PVB's practices. The BSP report noted certain unauthorized expenses and questionable practices but on the whole gave the PVB a clean bill of health.

Crevo says its case has been gathering dust at the Office of the Ombudsman.

2 Diwalwal miners on wanted list

From page A1

dered PNP Director General Edgar Aglipay and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu to replace the existing police and military contingents in the mining site with the 402nd Infantry Brigade and a select PNP unit.

The President did not say why she called the brothers murderers. The brothers were among several people previously linked to the June 2003 killing of Mayor Joel Brillantes of Monkayo, Compostela Valley.

Before the killing, the mining company which Tata Sala ran had been involved in clashes with a firm owned by the slain mayor over mining operations in Diwalwal, police said.

Also called Mt. Diwata, Diwalwal has long obsessed gold diggers.

Golden promise

Its promise of fortune triggered a gold rush in the 1980s when the population around the mountain swelled to 100,000. Hundreds were believed to have died in cave-ins and other disasters in the area.

The government took over the mining site in August 2002 following bloody clashes among local miners. A huge contingent of police and soldiers was deployed as peacekeepers, implementing a firearms ban, among other security measures.

The takeover has apparently paid off.

More gold than Baguio

Gone were the armed miners that used to be a common sight in the area, police said.

Miners also produced more, with at least four firms coming up with something between 80 and 100 tons of ore daily, Franco Tito, a village chair in Diwalwal, had told the Inquirer in an interview.

By 2003, a year after the takeover, Diwalwal miners had remitted at least P4 million in fees to the national government, according to Tito.

Even Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri has acknowledged the richness of the 8,100-hectare mine site, saying that potentially, it has more gold than the whole of Baguio, the country's gold capital.

"Diwalwal, which runs from Davao to Agusan, is reputed to have $18 billion worth of gold potential," Neri said last November. "Theoretically, that is plenty of money to pare down the national government debt."

Miners protest

Speaker Jose de Venecia has also proposed inviting international investors to the area to develop its "enormous underground wealth."

Ms Arroyo's order for the deployment of a new security force around Diwalwal drew immediate protests from small-scale miners in the area, who threatened to block any such move, saying they were satisfied with the performance of the 36th Infantry Battalion currently assigned there.

Thousands of miners gathered at a Diwalwal gymnasium to discuss protest actions if the battalion was pulled out and replaced by another military or police unit, according to Tito, the barangay chair. *With a report from Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

National diabetes program names Charantia official food supplement

"Our patients' blood sugar level remains more stable for long periods of time."
- municipal doctors

Dr. Guia Abad (center, front), Operation Diabetes Chairperson and AMHOP President, with AMHOP doctors

Charantia, the country's leading brand of Ampalaya tea and capsules, has been named the official food supplement of 'Operation Diabetes,' the national diabetes prevention and control program of the Association of Municipal Health Officers of the Philippines (AMHOP). AMHOP is composed of over 1,500 doctors running the country's public health centers.

'Operation Diabetes' aims to ease the burden of those suffering from diabetes and prevent its further spread. It helps organize diabetics into clubs to act as agents in promoting diabetes awareness and the right lifestyle of proper diet and regular exercise at the grassroots.

Operation Diabetes Chairperson Dr. Guia Abad said they made Charantia the official food supplement based on their consistent positive experience. "After a few days, or within a month of drinking Charantia tea to fortify their usual diet, regular exercise and medication, our diabetic patients have an easier time lowering their blood sugar level," said Dr. Abad, who is also President of AMHOP. Dr. Abad said Charantia is believed to help sensitize the body to diabetes medications.

Likewise, with each blood sugar test, she said the doctors could measure Charantia's benefit to the patient. In many cases, Dr. Abad said that with regular monitoring of the patients' blood sugar, the doctors were able to gradually reduce the more expensive diabetes medicines. The patients also reported marked improvement in their general well-being, such as, being more alert and active.

"We have always advised our patients to regularly eat unripe Ampalaya to fortify their diet.' But as many cannot tolerate its bitter taste or get tired of eating Ampalaya daily, we advise them to take Charantia Ampalaya tea, which is the same vegetable but without its bitter taste. It's easy for them to take it daily," explained Dr. Abad.●

Former BFAD Director says Ampalaya effective for diabetics

A former director of the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) affirmed the Ampalaya's safety and potency to control elevated blood sugar levels. Dr. William D. Torres, BFAD Director from 1999 to 2002, concluded that the vegetable, when taken regularly, "helps increase glucose tolerance and potentiate insulin." This after he reviewed over 200 studies on the Ampalaya in the past four years. Last December, Dr. Torres delivered a lecture, "Ampalaya: An Alternative Therapy to Diabetes," at the 2004 World Congress on Anti-Aging Medicine in Las Vegas, Nevada. The event was attended by more than 4,000 medical professionals from over 20 countries.

"The Ampalaya is a useful and safe food supplement to complement the low-fat and high-fiber diet for persons concerned with maintaining a healthy blood sugar level," Dr. Torres said. "It's traditional use as a home remedy for diabetes is backed by hundreds of pre-clinical and clinical scientific studies." A Ph.D. in Pharmaceutics (University of Mississippi), Dr. Torres advocates that further studies be made to establish the Ampalaya as a medicine for diabetes.●

A4M
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ANTI AGING MEDICINE

Dr. William Torres delivers his lecture on the Ampalaya in Las Vegas

"Basta Ampalaya para sa diabetes, rekomendado namin, walang iba kundi Charantia."

Dr. Guia G. Abad, MD, MPH
Chairperson, Operation Diabetes
President, Association of Municipal Health Officers of the Philippines (AMHOP)

The Official Food Supplement of Operation Diabetes

www.charantia.com
Call 802-2222

Charantia
AMPALAYA HEALTH DRINK

Summons for Blanca respondents delayed

By Philip C. Tubeza

FORMER military intelligence chief Brig. Gen. Galileo Kintanar and the two women linked to the murder of actress Nida Blanca will have to wait a little longer for a summons from the Department of Justice (DOJ).

State Prosecutor Archimedes Manabat said yesterday the new panel of prosecutors that would conduct the preliminary investigation was still reviewing the "voluminous" documents and evidence in the case.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said last week subpoenas would be issued against Kintanar, former chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines; long-time Blanca aide Elena dela Paz; and Ditas San Jose dela Paz, a second cousin of Kaye Torres, Blanca's daughter, to determine their involvement in the actress' murder.

New witnesses

Manabat said the new members of the prosecution panel—State Prosecutors Caridad Junio and Melvin Abad—were reviewing evidence that now include sworn statements of new witnesses Andrada "Anji" Dalandas, Ranny Francisco and Fedelyn "Mariz" Canonio.

Gonzalez said earlier that witness Francisco positively identified Elena dela Paz as the woman who, together with two men, fetched Blanca from the Atlanta Centre Building hours before she was murdered on Nov. 7, 2001.

He said Kintanar should explain his "close relationship" with accused Philip Medel and engineer Vicente "Dodong" Polinar. Gonzalez said the two men tailed Blanca a month before she was killed.

He said the DOJ also wanted Ditas dela Paz to explain why she bought the airplane tickets of Rod Strunk, Blanca's husband and principal suspect in the case who left the country for the US on Jan. 21, 2002.

Gonzalez said his department wanted Kintanar to explain the alleged involvement of some of his people. One of them, security guard Alfredo "Aldo" Rodriguez, testified he, Polinar and Medel tailed Blanca a month before her murder. Rodriguez said Polinar bought an old Mitsubishi Gallant used in the surveillance. Polinar is at large and is believed to be in Bukidnon.

Witness Rogelio Salutin, a security guard, complained that Kintanar's men harassed him and he had to go into hiding. Salutin had testified that he saw Strunk meet Medel in an apartment that Kintanar owned. Kintanar's name first came up because he had paid the rent for the Quezon City apartment where Medel stayed.

Dirty water downs 39 in Pasay

By Blanche S. Rivera and Nancy C. Carvajal

CONTAMINATED water downed 39 residents of a barangay in Pasay City over the weekend, triggering a probable outbreak of typhoid fever in the area, the Department of Health said yesterday.

A team from the DOH National Epidemiology Center and the Pasay City health office made the rounds of barangay 123 on Saturday and found 39 people showing symptoms of typhoid fever.

Typhoid fever is caused by the salmonella typhi bacteria. Fever, headache, malaise or weakness, constipation among adults and diarrhea among children, are its most common symptoms.

Dr. Tony San Juan of the DOH-NEC said rectal swabs from 39 residents of El Facundo, Medina and Alfonso Isidro streets were sent to the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine for culture.

"The culprit is most probably the water because residents have complained of foul-smelling water from their faucets," San Juan told the INQUIRER yesterday.

A spot examination of the water source of barangay 123 and its neighboring barangays showed that the residual chlorine level in the water supply was zero. The normal residual chlorine level is .2 to .5 mg/liter, San Juan said.

The affected barangay is within the service area of Maynilad Water Services Inc.

San Juan said that nearby Barangay 124, which has the same water source, has had a history of typhoid outbreaks in the past two years.

This would be the first case of an outbreak in Barangay 123, which had less than 10 cases of typhoid last year, if all 39 cases are confirmed.

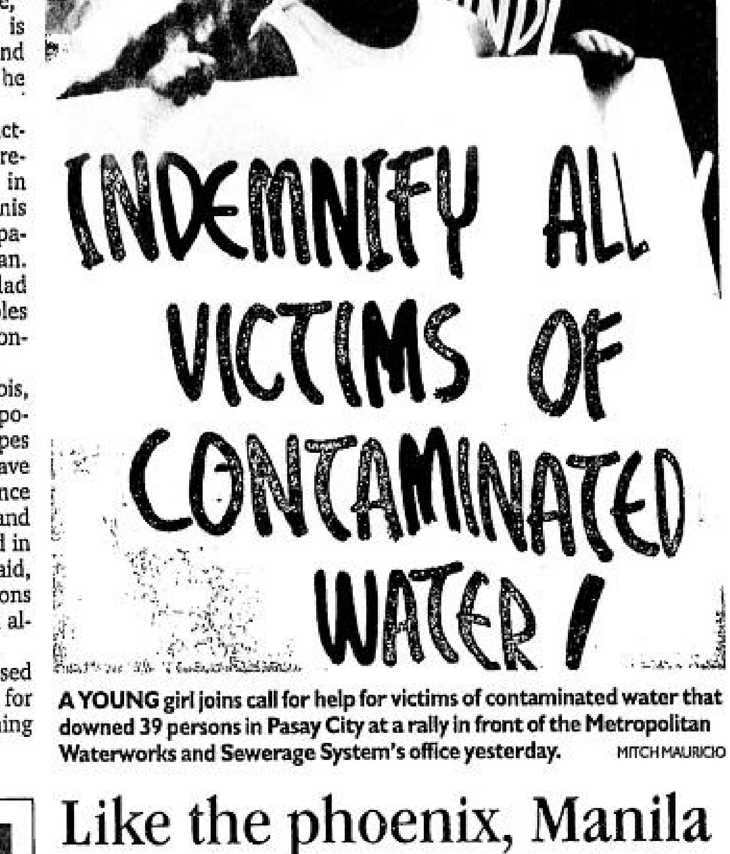
San Juan said Maynilad had reported that it chlorinated the water source of the concerned barangays Saturday afternoon after the DOH and Pasay City health officials called the company's attention. The DOH was still verifying whether or not the residual chlorine level had reached the normal level as reported by Maynilad, but San Juan confirmed that Maynilad had set up a water rationing station in the affected barangay.

Meanwhile, tests made by the city's sanitation office said that human waste had found its way to the faucets in Barangay 123 in Pasay City. The test done was a residual chlorine determination and water sampling, submitted for bacteriological examination to the Las Piñas Integrated District Hospital, said Neil Sabino of the city sanitation office. "Six samples taken from different households showed coliform organism and had zero chlorine," Sabino said. The organism is found in the feces of humans and other warm blooded animals," he added.

Sabino said a test was conducted on Jan. 18 after his office received complaints of foul [illegible] in the tap water. A second test, this time with Maynilad's participation, was also conducted on Jan. 24. But according to Maynilad Water, only one of the six samples had been found to have been contaminated with the organism.

According to Jess Matubis, Maynilad vice president for corporate communications, old pipes and illegal connections could have added to the contamination. Since August, service connections and pipe replacements have started in Barangays 124 and 123, he said, adding that service connections for 122 houses in the area had already been completed.

The DOH, meanwhile, advised residents to boil water used for drinking, cooking and washing kitchen utensils.



A YOUNG girl joins call for help for victims of contaminated water that downed 39 persons in Pasay City at a rally in front of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System's office yesterday. MITCH MAURICIO

MMDA
'asan na
ang ASO ko?

MITCH MAURICIO

MISSING HIS DOG

Debro Guardiana of Barangay Sta. Cruz, Quezon City, wants to know what happened to his dog after a Metropolitan Manila Development Authority demolition team allegedly demolished their houses on Jan. 21.

Like the phoenix, Manila school rises from ashes

By Tarra V. Quismundo

IT WAS like the first day of classes again for a school in San Miguel, Manila, that lost three buildings in a recent fire.

The Geronimo Santiago Elementary School had to try to keep things normal despite the recent loss of the buildings.

Though some students had yet to return to class, the number of those who did prompted the school to hold classes in the lobby, garage, library and the gymnasium. Other Manila public schools donated desks for the use of the students.

The school administration decided to resume classes despite grim reminders of the recent fire-charred ruins of buildings yet to be completely demolished to prevent the students from losing more learning hours. The school missed a full week of classes because of the fire.

"We are like 'newbies' here all over again… we feel like we are back to zero. But the students were all excited to come back, even if we had to hold our classes like this," said Marillie Gueco, who has been teaching for almost 15 years now.

Her class of 45 first graders occupied the lobby of the administration building, one of the structures that survived the blaze. Desks and a chalkboard created a semblance of a classroom in the reception area.

Since her classroom had no walls, Gueco had to raise her voice to keep her students from getting distracted by passersby and noise from other classes nearby.

"And we had to make new visual aids all over again. You cannot effectively teach your class without show cards, charts and pictures, especially a Grade 1 class," said Gueco.

But 7-year-old Trixie Edejer seemed unconcerned about being in an improvised room, seemingly more interested in learning than mourning the school's loss.

"*Nalungkot po ako, pero buti po natira pa ito para makapag-aral pa kami* (I was sad, but at least this building was spared so we could still continue our classes)," the first-grader said. The sentiment was shared by most students, said principal Jesusa Caraig.

"I was touched when a student… told me that she was afraid she would no longer be able to continue studying because of the fire," she told the INQUIRER.

The city government has promised new classrooms by the start of the new school year. In the meantime, Geronimo Santiago Elementary School makes the most of their makeshift classrooms.

"I think that until the end of the school year, we would be holding classes like this. There's no other choice," said Caraig.

Jeremy needs your help

AT 3, JEREMY Cayabyab is in danger of losing his one and only eye.

He already lost his left eye last year after doctors said he had Retinoblastoma Extraocular, a cancer of the eye common among children below 5 years old.

Because of financial constraints, Jeremy's family was not able to bring him for medical treatment immediately, making his condition worse.

The diagnosis was made last March 2004, but doctors were only able to remove his infected eye after six months.

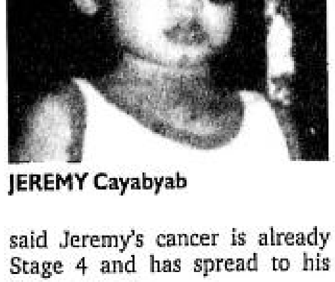
"We needed P6,000 for his operation but I only had P200 at that time so the treatment was postponed," Antonio Lacoreta, Jeremy's grandfather said.

Jeremy stays with his grandfather and grandmother in Malabon.

His parents, who live in Negros Oriental, entrusted him to his grandparents' care when he was only 2 ½ years old because they could no longer take care of him.

Lacoreta works as a carpenter, earning P300 a day, but it is not enough for Jeremy's monthly chemotherapy sessions.

Jeremy's attending physician at the Philippine General Hospital, Dr. Ann Veronique Eguaras, said Jeremy's cancer is already Stage 4 and has spread to his bone marrow.



JEREMY Cayabyab

The boy is on his 6th cycle of chemotherapy. He needs to complete eight cycles to save his right eye.

Jeremy needs at least P6,000 for every chemotherapy session.

"The doctors said he needs to complete his treatment or else he would die," Lacoreta said.

His grandfather is asking kindhearted readers to help him save his grandson.

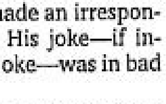
They can be reached at Phase 6, Flovihomes Letre, Tonsuya, Malabon City, or at this number: 0910-2457123.

Donors could also send their donations to Antonio Lacoreta's PNB San Marcelino Branch account (Acct # 250554029-0). *Jocelyn R. Uy*

Murders of journalists not linked to vigilante killings

On Target

Ramon Tulfo



WHILE I deplore the killings of fellow journalists and the apparent government inaction in most of them, I don't see why the vigilante killings in Davao City and Cebu City should be linked to the murders of journalists.

The Brussels-based International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), which blames the government on the slow action or inaction on the murders of journalists, should make a distinction between journalists and criminals.

The vigilantes in Cebu and Davao cities were only after criminals who did harm to innocent citizens in their areas.

The executions carried out against criminals in the two cities were desperate measures to stem the tide of criminality. Whether it is right or wrong, it was not for the IFJ to make a judgment because Brussels does not have the kind of peace and order problem we have here.

The IFJ should have asked ordinary citizens in Cebu and Davao cities about their views on vigilante killings.

And what about Camarines Sur police director Senior Supt. Efren Yebre, who reportedly remarked that he felt like killing media people whenever he met them?

Even if he meant it as a joke as he claimed, he made an irresponsible statement. His joke—if indeed that was a joke—was in bad taste.

Yebre should be relieved from his post to make him realize that an official holding a responsible position should be aware of the sensibilities of people whose safety he guards.

***

A resort owner reportedly slapped a provincial official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) last Saturday at a hotel in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan.

Sources in the city said the resort owner, an official of an association of resort owners in the province, wanted to confront the DENR official who was talking to his boss, the DENR regional director in Southern Tagalog.

The resort owner wanted to confront the DENR official in front of his boss about the harassment allegedly made by the official against resort owners.

Vacation resorts need an environment compliance certificate (ECC) from the DENR for allowing them to continue operations. The official allegedly withheld the ECCs of many resorts in the province for reasons only he knew.

DENR Secretary Mike Defensor should investigate the slapping incident instead of listening to his subordinate who, by now, would have probably made an official report in his favor.

***

I'm sorry to hear about the demise of Fr. Norberto "Bitoy" Makalintal whom I criticized in this space on Dec. 21.

The criticism concerned the way Father Bitoy ran the Tahanan ni Maria, a shelter for the elderly and some orphans, in Carmona, Cavite.

I had said the "Tahanan" management didn't do well in caring for their wards.

I made the criticism to awaken those concerned about the condition at the shelter.

In the next column, I will answer accusations against me from a priest who writes a column for another newspaper.

Father, please wait for my reply.

METROBRIEFS

Caloocan drug tests

THE 14 policemen tasked to go after drug pushers and users in Caloocan City will first have to undergo quarterly drug test themselves. This is to make sure that none of the local police are drug dependents, Caloocan City Mayor Enrico Echiverri said in a statement yesterday. The local government would pay for the tests, police chief Leo Garra told the INQUIRER. Garra said that while his men arrested 347 drug suspects in 2004, he had received reports that some of them were into drugs themselves. He added that the drug tests would be to verify the reports. In Malabon City, Mayor Canuto Oreta has also ordered surprise drug tests for the more than 1,600 City Hall employees after receiving complaints that some of these are drug users, the city public information office said.

Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

Calling SPC Class '81

ALL GRADUATES of St. Paul College of Manila high school class of 1981 are requested to sign up for the membership directory and join preparations for the grand alumnae homecoming/silver jubilee celebration in January 2006. A yearlong series of fund-raising activities are being planned (see http://ca.geocities.com/spcmhs81/mnlreunion022104.html). For details, e-mail Cres Llorca-Logan at spcmhs81@yahoo com or Mica Calica-Kerkdijk at gelikerk@yahoo com or Joy Yuzon at 0917-7948729

METRO
E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil ■ Assistant Editor Cenon B. Bibe
Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

EZ2
9 21

SUERTRES
4 1 7

FOUR DIGIT
3 0 8 4
(In exact order)

MEGALOTTO 6/45
12 17 23 33 40 45
₱46,451,909.70

SWEEPSTAKES
2 6 6 8 0 0 S
₱1,500,000.00

Gloria gets tough on cybersex dens

By Christian V. Esguerra and Leila B. Salaverria

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered a crackdown against "cybersex" dens, a silently popular Internet-based past-time that markets mostly women to online users, which has turned in handsome profits for its operators.

"I call on the people to report these operations to the nearest police station," she said in her speech at the Philippine National Police's 14th anniversary rites at Camp Crame yesterday."

The President also commended the PNP for initiating a drive against cybersex den operators. Police had conducted raids in "hot spots" such as the cities of Angeles and San Fernando in Pampanga, and Las Piñas City.

But despite the "aggressive" PNP campaign, the agency's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group had expressed the need for a clearer law against cybersex.

The Anti-Trafficking of Persons Act of 2003 is not enough to prosecute and penalize operators of cybersex dens, CIDG officer in charge Rodolfo "Boogie" Mendoza had explained. What is needed is a provision in the law that would punish mere possession of pornographic materials, he added.

A classic example cited was the case of Belgian Roland Thys, owner of a cybersex den raided by the CIDG in Barangay Malabanias, Angeles City on Oct. 4. Government prosecutors junked the CIDG case against Thys, explaining that mere possession of accessories used in the illegal activity was not enough to elevate the case against the Belgian in court.

In a bid to prosecute the increasing violations committed through computers and the Internet, the National Bureau of Investigation is batting for the creation of specific cyber crime laws addressing the problem.

Anti-Fraud and Computer Crime head Elfren Meneses Jr. said his division had submitted a proposed bill to the House of Representatives providing for a separate law to penalize child pornography.

As it is, the production of child pornography is penalized under the child abuse law, child trafficking law, and the law against indecency or publication of obscene materials.

Meneses said it would be better if a specific law against child pornography is in effect so that authorities could more easily target its practitioners.

He also noted that there is a myriad of cyber crimes, and that laws addressing each of these would help the police and the NBI put a stop to such activities.

One of the cyber crimes that also needs to be addressed is the operation of companies in the country which offer cybersex to foreigners.

Suspects caught maintaining establishments catering to cybersex, however, are only charged with violating the law against indecency, or business permit violations that provide minimal penalties.

Internet fraud and hacking are also common forms of cyber crime, added Meneses.

Fortunately, some of the violations are penalized under the E-commerce act, he said.

Still, it would be better if all kinds of cyber crimes are identified and properly addressed, according to the NBI official.

Recently, police raided a Las Piñas computer shop that allowed people in other countries to view Filipino women performing sexual acts for a fee through credit cards on the Internet.

Greenhills prayer room for Muslims now open

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE ISLAMIC CALL to prayer was broadcast by new loudspeakers inside a sparkling air-conditioned room in Greenhills, San Juan.

It was time for Salatu-z-Zuhr, the Muslims' noontime prayer.

Men and women who arrived at the ground floor of the four-story parking building of the Greenhills Shopping Center went to separate absolution rooms. Women used a different door to enter the *musallah* or prayer area and a green curtain separated the two sexes.

The Muslims are practicing their faith in the heart of Christian Greenhills, thanks to the Christian company running the shopping center.

"It's like a hotel," Rex Dimacuta, secretary general of the Muslim traders association in Greenhills, described the new *musallah*. "We are very thankful (and) we intend to maintain it really well."

Not really first

Although the building of the prayer room in front of the OB Montessori School and the Club Filipino met stiff opposition from some residents, a *musallah* has existed in Greenhills for years. Muslim traders prayed in a dimly-lit and smelly alleyway in Virra Mall. Some traders prayed inside their stalls, with only curtains to provide them privacy.

Residents opposed to the new *musallah* argued that it would attract crooks, pointing to Maharlika Village in Taguig, Culiat in Quezon City, and Quiapo in Manila that allegedly had peace and order problems. They said the prayer area would also lower property values.

But Ortigas & Company, owner of the shopping complex, went ahead with the project. The prayer room that can accommodate some 300 people opened during the Edil Adha, the culmination of the pilgrimage to Mecca, the Muslims' holiest of places.

Example of tolerance

The project was actually hailed by Catholic and Protestant religious and activists as an example of religious tolerance.

Masses at the Catholic chapel in Greenhills were briefly suspended to show the Church's solidarity with the Muslims. Now, Masses have resumed.

Joey Santos, the shopping center's general manager, said they never considered dropping the project as they were not violating any law. "We are very proud of our Muslim traders... They have been very good contributors to the success of Greenhills," he said.

The *musallah* opened without a whimper from oppositors. Francisco Joaquin, a resident who supported the project, said it seemed those opposed had accepted that there was nothing they could do about it.

At the height of the controversy, the Greenhills Association of San Juan wrote Mayor Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito and said "historical experience" showed that mosques in non-Muslim areas resulted in the deterioration of the peace and order situation and land value.

But Ejercito lauded the project, reportedly calling it a "noble" gesture. A source said the mayor was irked by the apparent religious intolerance.

The prayer room opens only during Muslim prayer hours and would be closed after mall hours.

irresistible
₱6000 OFF
0% interest*
GET A G-PLAN AND ENJOY BOTH!

G PLAN now offers these SONY ERICSSON handsets with a P6000 discount** and gives you 6 months to pay at 0% interest on the remaining balance.

No wonder more people prefer G-Plan compared to any other cellphone plan.
Get a G-Plan at any Globe Telecom Business Center or Hub today!

How to subscribe:
1. Bring a valid ID with picture, proof of billing and proof of income (equivalent to the monthly plan value being applied for) to any Globe Telecom Business Center or Hub.
2. Fill up the Mobile Application Form. Application subject to Globe's credit approval.
3. Condition:
   a. Subscriber should maintain the subscription for at least 24 months, otherwise the subscriber will be charged a penalty of P10,000 or handset base price, whichever is higher.
   b. For existing G-Plan subscribers who wish to avail of the offer, their current line must be active.

PROMO PERIOD: January 08 to February 20, 2005

*0% interest for 6 months' installment is applicable only for credit card holders. Valid only if monthly bills are paid in full. Subject to bank approval. Participating credit cards: HSBC, Metrobank, Diners, Citibank, BPI, Standard Chartered and Bankard.
**P6000 discount is applicable only for the G-Text Plan.

Visit any Globe Telecom Business Center or Hub or call 751 8888. Globe Direct only serves the following credit cards: Metrobank, Diners, Citibank, BPI or Bankard.

Sony Ericsson T610
₱925/month
or
FREE at Plan 1800

Sony Ericsson K500i
₱1,111.66/month
or
FREE on Plan 1800

Sony Ericsson K700i
₱2,175/month
or
FREE on Plan 2500

Sony Ericsson S700i
₱4,750/month
or
FREE on Plan 5000

Sony Ericsson P910i
₱5,583.33/month
or
FREE on Plan 5000

You can also get a Sony Ericsson T230 for only ₱500 on Plan 800.***

***not applicable to the P6000 discount and 0% interest in 6-months installment.
Approved by DTI-NCR.

Sony Ericsson
making great things possible
Globe HANDYPHONE
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0045, Series of 2005

SPORTS

Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

SPORTS TV
Compiled by L. Mangulat

FOOTBALL: EPL-Arsenal vs Manchester United; tomorrow at 3:55 a.m.; ESPN—England's bitter football rivals renew acquaintances at Old Trafford.
BASKETBALL: US NCAA-Missouri vs Kansas; 8 a.m. (r-9:30 p.m.); Providence vs Pittsburgh; 10 a.m.; Iowa vs Indiana; 4 p.m. (r); ESPN—The Tigers take on the Jayhawks while the Friars face the Panthers and the Hawkeyes battle the Hoosiers.
Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

ASI TAULAVA'S presence in Game 2 hangs in the balance. REM ZAMORA

Ginebra files protest, cites 3 TNT violations

By June Navarro

CITING three infractions it said Talk 'N Text committed in fielding Asi Taulava last Sunday, Barangay Ginebra yesterday officially placed under protest Game 1 of the Gran Matador PBA Philippine Cup Finals which the Phone Pals won, 89-71, over the Kings.

Team manager Allan Caidic submitted the letter of protest signed by Barangay Ginebra board representative Arnaldo Africa to commissioner Noli Eala, who gave the Phone Pals until 5 p.m. today to refute the Kings' charges.

The foremost Talk 'N Text violation, according to Africa, was its defiance of the PBA's suspension of Taulava which the board refused to lift despite a recent Quezon City court ruling ordering the league to reinstate the Phone Pals' top player.

Africa argued that Taulava could not possibly be in the TNT lineup when the team submitted its official roster during the deadline for changing players set by the league last Jan. 14.

He added that Taulava, who was declared a "Fil-sham" by the Department of Justice last year, also failed to follow the procedure for reinstatement of a Fil-foreign player under rules recently approved by the board. Among the requirements are submission of a birth certificate and the marriage contract of the players' parents.

"I'm sure they (Phone Pals) will contest these arguments. It's their prerogative," said Eala.

Under the PBA rules, if an ineligible player is fielded in, the game could be forfeited or replayed depending on the decision of the commissioner. The team, which used the player, will face sanctions in the form of fines or forfeiture of its television rights.

In case of protests, the PBA allows teams to submit their arguments and pieces of evidence within a five-day prescription period before the commissioner rules on the matter.

"Normally, the league gives five days for the teams to argue. But there's also a provision in the rule book that the league could set aside the five-day allowance if the protest will affect the next game," said Eala.

His decision, Eala explained, will be based solely on the merits of the case and will be announced before Barangay Ginebra and Talk 'N Text go into Game 2 of the Finals tomorrow.

Eala noted that it was the first time in league history that a protest against a player's eligibility was filed and his decision would be a precedent.

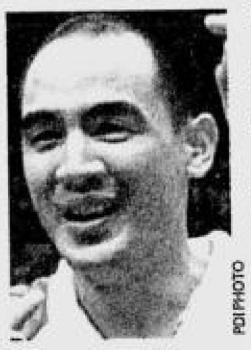
Chair Buddy Encarnado said a favorable decision for the Gin Kings would surely prolong the legal battle between the PBA and Talk 'N Text.

"If that happens, it could be a long-drawn, messy legal battle because every time the franchise gets an adverse resolution, they will just go to court and file a case," said Encarnado, adding that since the PBA didn't lift a finger when TNT allowed Taulava to play, the league couldn't anymore be held for contempt by the Quezon City court, which ordered Taulava's reinstatement.

"With Taulava again playing in the league, he is now duty-bound to follow the rules of the PBA, which the franchise [TNT] disregarded," he said.

NOW THAT'S MORE LIKE IT
What is Cosmetic Transdermal Reconstruction? (CTR™)
Ask us how we can provide you with CTR™ the original and most requested hair restoration process.
Special thanks to all our loyal customers for 8 great years.
Your friendly staff at Image Associates, Inc.
8th YEAR
FREE CONSULTATION BROCHURE
CALL NOW:
845-0879
924-1894
A cosmetically significant increase in Hair Density Guranteed!
Makati Office: Suite 714 Herrera Tower, 98 Herrera Cor. Valero Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City Tel. Nos.: 845-0879 / 845-1663 Fax: 845-1711
Quezon City Office: Suites 401-402 Columbian Bldg., 160 West Ave., Q.C. Tel.: 924-1894 / 924-1895 Fax: 924-1896
Cebu offices: Tel.: (032) 256-0347 Tel/Fax: (032) 256-0320
IMAGE ASSOCIATES
www.imageenhancementgroup.com

Turnovers led to our Game 1 defeat—Siot



TANQUINGCEN PDI PHOTO

FOR SIOT Tanquingcen, the short rest Barangay Ginebra had before plunging into the PBA Philippine Cup Finals and Jayjay Helterbrand's injury had little bearing on the Kings' Game 1 defeat against Talk 'N Text Sunday.

The culprit, Tanquingcen pointed out, was the spate of turnovers the Kings committed.

"The team outplayed us. I'm offering no excuses except that we lost the game because of the turnovers we made," said Tanquingcen after the Kings were routed by the Phone Pals, 89-71, Sunday night in the opener of the best-of-seven Finals.

Ginebra gave up 18 points from their total turnover of 24 and the winning margin of Talk 'N Text was 18 points.

Interestingly, the Kings ruled the boards, pulling down 49 rebounds, 18 of them offensive as against the Phone Pals' 42.

"But we negated that advantage by giving up the ball too much," said Tanquingcen, whose Kings only had 24 hours to recover from an energy-sapping semifinal series that went to a deciding Game 5 against the Beermen.

In contrast, the Phone Pals had a week off after sweeping the Shell Turbochargers in their best-of-five semifinal series.

"We lost not because we had little rest and Jayjay couldn't play. They (Phone Pals) were simply the better team out there," said Tanquingcen.

Helterbrand showed up in crutches and will be out for 10 weeks after fracturing the tibular bone on his left calf Friday against the Beermen.

"We'll come out stronger in Game 2 even without Jayjay. As long as we play solidly together, we'll hang in there and hopefully get the crown," said Tanquingcen.

Coach Joel Banal, however, expects surprises in Game 2, saying the Kings will come out fresh and make adjustments to counter the offensive strategy of his Phone Pals.

"I'm not going to be surprised if they (Kings) surprise us on Wednesday," said Banal.

"I know they'll make adjustments. There's a lot of things to do and Siot knows that," he added.

2 Indons now training with national netters

By Marc Anthony Reyes

BADMINTON has joined the Fil-foreign bandwagon in the 2005 Southeast Asian Games.

Taking the lead from basketball, track and field, tennis and golf, badminton is eyeing foreign reinforcements for the national team in the Nov. 27 to Dec. 5 SEAG here.

Outgoing national head coach Valentin "Butch" Oreta said two Indonesians have been joining the training of the national netters, hoping to suit up for the RP team in the Games.

Oreta, who has resigned over differences with top badminton officials, said Indonesians Setyo Puri and Rudy Widjaya have been in the country for the past two to three years through Alvee Benitez of Bingo Bonanza.

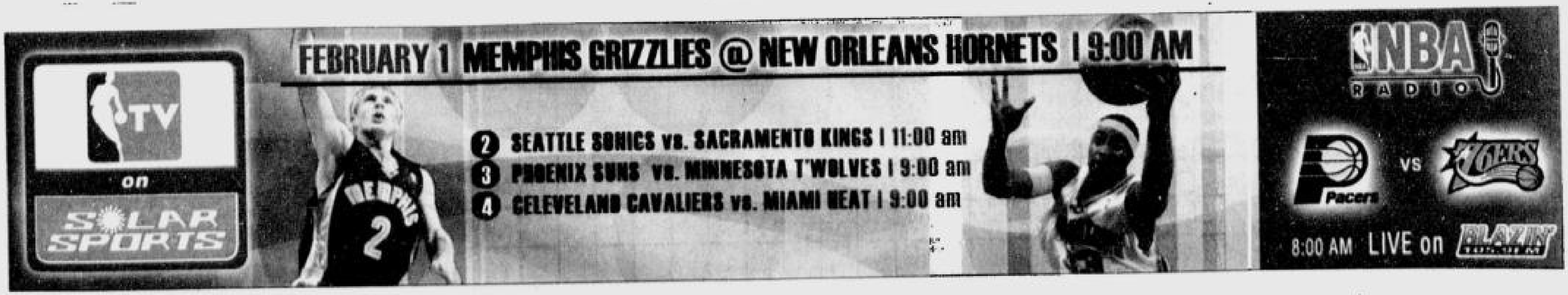
He said the Indonesians have already completed the residency requirement for them to don the national colors, but need RP passports to represent the country.

Indonesia and Malaysia are among the world powers in badminton. The country won a bronze in the SEA Games two years ago in Vietnam through the mixed doubles tandem of siblings Kennievic and Kennie Asuncion.

Athletics is interested in fielding US-based middle distance runner Kashus Perona and pole vaulter Deborah Samson while golf is tapping Australia-based Frances Bondad.

Tennis also wants to tap at least two Fil-Americans to beef up its SEAG chances.

United Auctioneers, Inc.
"NO MINIMUM PRICE"
3 DAY PUBLIC AUCTION
Still The Preferred Auctioneer!
FEBRUARY 20, 21 & 22, 2005
(SUNDAY, MONDAY & TUESDAY)
Sale starts at 8:30 AM SHARP!
Catch The Best at Subic Bay
INSPECTION DATES:
FEBRUARY 17, 18 & 19 2005
(THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY)
REGISTRATION DATES:
FEBRUARY 17, to 22, 2005
(THURSDAY, TO TUESDAY)
SUBIC BLDG. 1455 ARGONAUT HIGHWAY, SUBIC BAY FREEPORT, PHILIPPINES TEL NOS: (047) 252-1129 • 252-1155 to 58 FAX NO: (047) 252-5569
MANILA TEL NOS: (02) 9297868 • 9205501 • 426-3908 • 453-7470 • CEL NO. 09178068824
FAX NO: (02) 929-0260 E-MAIL: :info@uauctioneers.com WEBSITE: www.uauctioneers.com
Trucks & Equipment Financing available thru ORIX METRO Leasing & Financing Corp. Tel: (02) 858-8888



FEBRUARY 1 MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES @ NEW ORLEANS HORNETS | 9:00 AM
② SEATTLE SONICS vs. SACRAMENTO KINGS | 11:00 am
③ PHOENIX SUNS vs. MINNESOTA T'WOLVES | 9:00 am
④ CELEVELAND CAVALIERS vs. MIAMI HEAT | 9:00 am
8:00 AM LIVE on

National Caddies Open fires off today

HERMIE Esguerra, co-chair of the National Caddies Open, hits one of the ceremonial drives to launch the tournament yesterday. Also present were Ben Abalos, former Ladies Amateur champ Frances Bondad, Dave Hernandez, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and Tommy Manotoc. JESS YUSON

By Musong R. Castillo

CALATAGAN, Batangas—Coming from diverse fields of business and profession, a small group of men who share genuine love for golf and sincere compassion for the needy just nailed a shot that will go down as the rarest in the sport.

A well-respected public servant, a champion racehorse owner and breeder, a businessman who rose from very humble beginnings and one who talks and breathes golf are reaching out to give something back.

The National Caddies Open was born not to make popular people out of these four intrepid individuals, but to carve a niche in the world as an organization that makes champions.

Call this tournament the chance at forever having a better life, with no other event in the world having the same claim.

Ben Abalos, Hermie Esguerra, Tony Arevalo and Tommy Manoctoc have embarked on this ambitious undertaking, not only giving the winners the window to improve their lives, but also help the country develop its future stars.

The group has dipped its hand into the caddies' pool, confident of coming up with the next Frankie Miñoza in the next few years.

"There is a well of talent in the caddies' pool," said an official NCO statement. "We can't just lie here and let it go to waste. There are things we can do to help the sport of golf and we hope that what we have started will have a lasting effect."

The NCO got a positive response from First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and Pagcor, co-presenters of the 72-hole event, and San Miguel Corp. and the Philippine Sports Commission.

Nike Golf has also joined the list of growing backers, agreeing to supply the first members of the program with the most modern equipment.

FG Arroyo hit one of the ceremonial drives that marked the start of the tournament yesterday with the official practice round.

He spoke to the full field of 120 players while on the first tee, exhorting them to look at this tournament way beyond its conclusion on Friday at Wack Wack.

"This tournament is for all of you and for our country," Arroyo said.

Meanwhile, the first round tees off at 7 a.m. today, with players who fail to break 90 to be cut. Only the top 50 percent of scores and ties after the second round tomorrow will make it to the third round on Thursday at Canlubang with the top 20 players and ties making it to Wack Wack for the final round.

SPORTSWATCH

Cantonjos rules Baguio active chess

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—Philippine Air Force bet Allan Cantonjos of Gingoog City defeated NM Winston Silva of Davao City in the sixth round then subdued Rodolfo Panopio of Calamba City in the seventh and final round to rule the 2005 Baguio Active Chess (BAC) Open Tournament here at the Aspulan Cafe last Sunday. Cantonjos beat UST head coach Silva after 35 moves of a Caro-Cann Defense then nipped fellow Airman Panopio after 30 moves of a Slav Defense to score 6.5 points and pocket the P8,000 top purse. The event which drew 59 players was sponsored by Baguio City councilor and Aspulan Cafe owner Jose Molintas and Baguio City Chief Col. Isagani Nerez. It was organized by engineer Al Rulloda and Cris Serafica of BAC. Local bet Noel Pinic upset Ritchie Evangelista of Bolinao, Pangasinan, after 45 pushes of Sicilian Skirmish to place second, worth P6,000, with 6.0 points. Silva and Rainier Labay shared third place with 5.5 points each.

NM Marlon Bernardino

ESPN airs Arsenal vs Manchester

BITTER rivals Arsenal and Manchester United renew hostilities when they clash in the English Premier League tomorrow live and exclusive at 3:55 a.m. on ESPN. Arsenal and Man U are currently ranked second and third, respectively, in the Premiership behind pacesetting Chelsea. The Gunners, who are the defending champions, will be out for revenge as they dropped their first meeting to the Red Devils, 0-2, last October at Old Trafford.

World Slasher fever continues

THE WORLD Slasher Cup fever is still on at the 17,000-seater Araneta Coliseum, and this will be evident today when three prominent American cockers compete in the National Cockers Association (NCA) 7-Cock Derby beginning at 5 p.m. Fresh from winning the WSC plum (in partnership with NCA secretary general Jun Santiago) two weeks ago, Joseph Wolcott decided to field his remaining ace fighters today before heading back to Tennessee. Also seeing action are Larry Whitehead and another former WSC champ, Roger Roberts of Georgia. Today's 3-cock elimination round will be hosted by 2004 NCA Coker of the Year winners Pol Estrellado and Boy Royo of Laguna. The championship round unfolds on Thursday. Meanwhile, the NCA presents another 7-cock derby on Feb. 8 and 10 with Reps. Ronnie Puno and Gerry "Boy" Espina as hosts. For inquiries, contact 911-3101 and 911-2928.

Barnett Gamefowl Clinic successful

THE BRUCE Barnett Gamefowl Clinic sponsored by Thunderbird Power Feeds continued to create a stir in the local cocking community as requests for video copies of the seminar poured in. Held last Jan. 21 at the Gateway Theatre in Araneta Center, Quezon City. The event was conducted by Bruce Barnett of Alabama, USA. Cockfighting columnist Lando Luzong acted as moderator.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Fair Urduja 2. Sunline 3. Portfolio Dividend 4. American Idol/Society Climber
Race 2—1. Carolina Belle 2. Hot Babe 3. Great Tower/Queen of Gaia 4. Shaolin
Race 3—1. Sir Guguy 2. Battle Hero 3. War Epic 4. Native Prince 5. Formidable Ella/Simply Gold
Race 4—1. Speed Machine 2. Master King 3. Hyperbid 4. Smart Bird
Race 5—1. Tenacity 2. College Gem 3. Words of Joy 4. All Powerful/He's A Balong 5. Miss Bobon
Race 6—1. Men of Honor 2. Cool Reception 3. Real Triomphe 4. Powerhouse
Race 7—1. Golden Prince 2. Silver Cho Cho 3. Nitty Gritty 4. Schwarzenegger 5. Kantayok
Race 8—1. Bashful Lady 2. Caballero 3. Ahoy There 4. Gentleman's Lady 5. Fine Offer 6. Big Mama

Montaña, Welcoat start PBL best-of-5 title duel

WHEN the Montaña Jewels recruited veteran Alex Compton, coach Robert Sison knew his team's fortune in the PBL Open Championship is bound to improve.

"Alex is on my side, *kampante ako kapag nandiyan siya* (I'm confident when he's around)," said Sison after the Jewels secured their first finals appearance in seven years. "When we got him before the start of the season, I was so confident. I really wanted Alex on my team, he gave us stability."

And Compton's skills and leadership will again prove to be crucial when the Jewels battle the Welcoat Paintmasters in Game 1 of their best-of-five championship series at 4 p.m. today at the Makati Coliseum.

Meanwhile, Magnolia-FEU will try to shrug off its semifinal collapse when it guns for a third-place finish against Granny Goose in a knockout match at 2 p.m.

It will be Welcoat's 10th finals appearance, so unlike Montaña, the experience is nothing new for the Paintmasters.

Even Welcoat coach Caloy Garcia was a member of the squad that bagged the championship in 2002.

But Welcoat played inconsistently in the elimination round although it finally showed its mettle by ousting top-seed Magnolia-FEU in the semifinals.

"Nobody expected us to reach this far so I expect the boys to work hard," said Garcia. "But both teams want the title badly so it's going to be an exciting series."

GAMES TODAY (*Makati Coliseum*)
2 p.m.—Granny Goose vs Magnolia-FEU (knockout for third)
4 p.m.—Welcoat vs Montaña (Game 1 of best-of five finals)

Welcoat boasts a strong frontcourt led by Anthony Washington, Marvin Ortiguerra and Jay-R Reyes.

"Besides the experience, height is might and they have that," noted Sison. "We have a big problem in the shaded lane."

So even if the Jewels have been leaning on big man Jon Dan Salvador, one of the leading candidates for the Most Valuable Player award, they're also expected to rely on the perimeter shooting of Compton, Al Vergara and Ariel Capus.

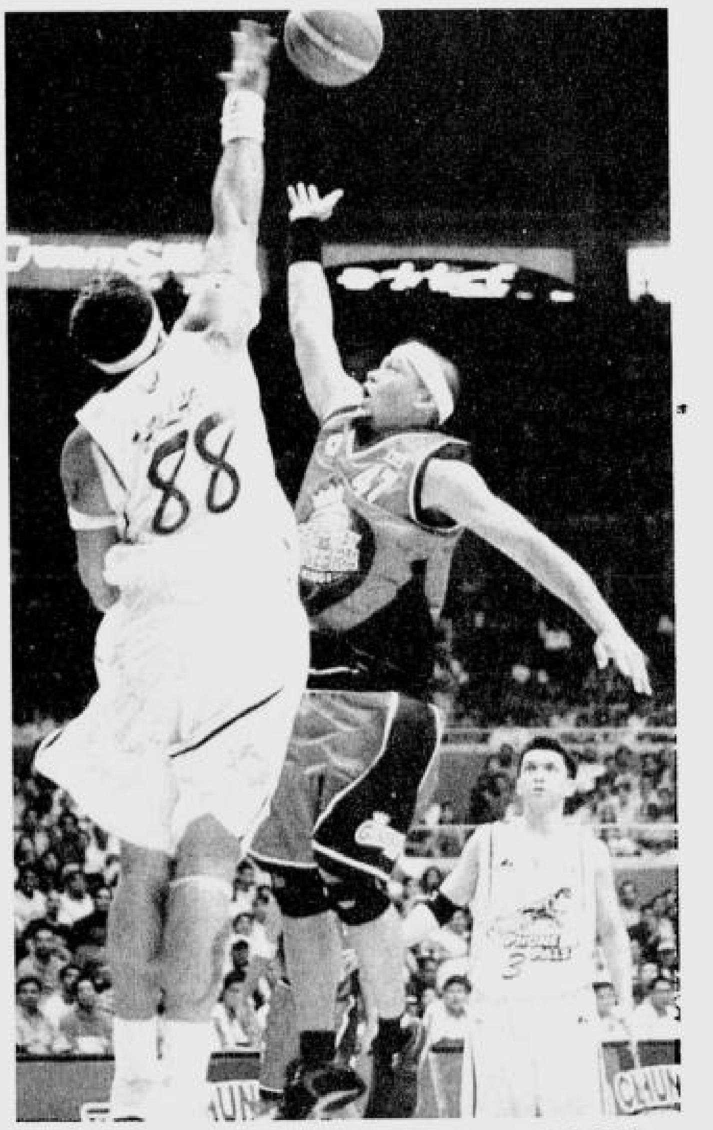
The Jewels swept the Paintmasters in the elimination round by a 12-point average margin. But Garcia dismissed this record. "*Wala na 'yun* (It's nothing), we're both back to zero," he said.

"It's too close to call," agreed Sison. "I expect a tightly fought series."

But at the very least, Sison has already changed the mediocre status of the Jewels, whose best record was a third-place finish in the 2001 Chairman's Cup under coach Leo Isaac.

The Paintmasters, who bagged a runner-up finish last conference, won their last title in the 2002 Challenge Cup.

Jasmine W. Payo



GINEBRA'S Mark Caguioa goes for a looper against TNT's Asi Taulava in Game 1 of the PBA Finals. (*See story on page A21.*) RYAN LIM

Django pockets $8,000 in Netherlands tilt

FILIPINO ace Francisco "Django" Bustamante won the 6th Annual Open Weert 10-ball Championships over the weekend at the House of Billiards in The Netherlands.

Bustamante beat German Thomas Engert in the finals to get the US$8,000 top purse.

Also in the field were the likes of Mika Immonen of Finland, local bets Nick Van Den Berg, Niels Feijen and Marcus Chamat.

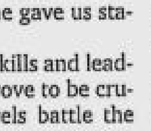
"Django's victory is another good news for the country," said Roland "Rolly " Vicente, Django's manager.

Bustamante is one of the eight seeds in the " Final 16" of the P1 million 2005 Philippine 9-Ball Open on Feb. 21 to 27 at the IBC 13 Complex in Quezon City. *Marlon Bernardino*

Astig Asi

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza



ASI Taulava played on Sunday against his wishes. If you will dispute that, you don't know your company rules.

For one, Asi is an employee of Talk 'N Text. As such, he is duty bound to follow orders from his bosses. He decides not to play and he can be fired for insubordination.

For another, Asi is at war with the PBA by virtue of court cases involving both his citizenship and playing rights in the PBA. A regional trial court had ruled he could play; so he played based mainly on an RTC ruling—a fact cited, quite correctly, by TNT management to field in Asi.

Don't get me wrong. I'm merely citing facts. No partisanship here—as always.

What I am saying is, Asi never broke any Philippine law when he played for TNT on Sunday. In fact, he was heeding Philippine law when he saw action on Sunday.

What he broke was his wish, if one could say that. How he wished he could disobey his superiors at TNT.

Add to that the fact he broke the hearts of Ginebra fans, who, after seeing him report to the hard court when his name was called, booed him.

Asi played in pain because he hasn't played for nearly three months since the Department of Justice had ruled he was a "Fil-Sham." The DOJ decision became the trigger for the PBA to suspend Asi. Because of that, he wasn't in shape for Sunday's game. Sluggish. But even as he scored only six points, TNT went on to defeat Ginebra, 89-71.

There's one more law that Asi broke, and this is the one that's been causing all this brouhaha over his suiting up for TNT on Sunday. He broke the law on suspensions contained in the PBA by-laws. But again, he broke it because he was ordered to break it.

That's the law cited by Ginebra when it put the game under protest even before the game could begin, win or lose.

Sunday's game marked many firsts in the checkered existence of the PBA, like a Fil-Am (Fil-Sham?) putting one over the league and a court of law suddenly becoming virtually the ruler of Asia's first play-for-pay loop. But what stands out is the fact that it marked the first time since the PBA's birth in 1975 that a suspended player was allowed to play by the league.

I can understand this eerie, if not utterly surprising, decision by the PBA board. In allowing Asi to play, the board bowed to the rule of law, allowing itself to be humiliated as it took the sorry, if not shameful, route of the easy way out if only to avoid crossing swords with the RTC.

To my mind, the PBA's woes all began when it allowed the government (DOJ) to "interfere" in its affairs by asking the DOJ to rule on the citizenship issues of the Fil-Ams. That opened a Pandora's box, which has now continued to hound, if not pester, PBA's dealings with Fil-Ams applying to enter the league.

Also, with the PBA move to entertain Asi's court case adverse to the league, the PBA, in effect, has lent validity to a court of law having the legal right to enter into league affairs.

A booby trap.

Had the PBA simply ignored Asi's court posturing by not taking part in any court proceeding—the PBA being a "republic" of its own like the Olympic Movement—the league would have been justified to brush aside any ruling, unfavorable or not, from a court of law affecting the PBA.

The PBA is now in a bind because of the case of one man, whom I will call Astig Asi from hereon. If mishandled, the league's very existence could yet be in jeopardy.

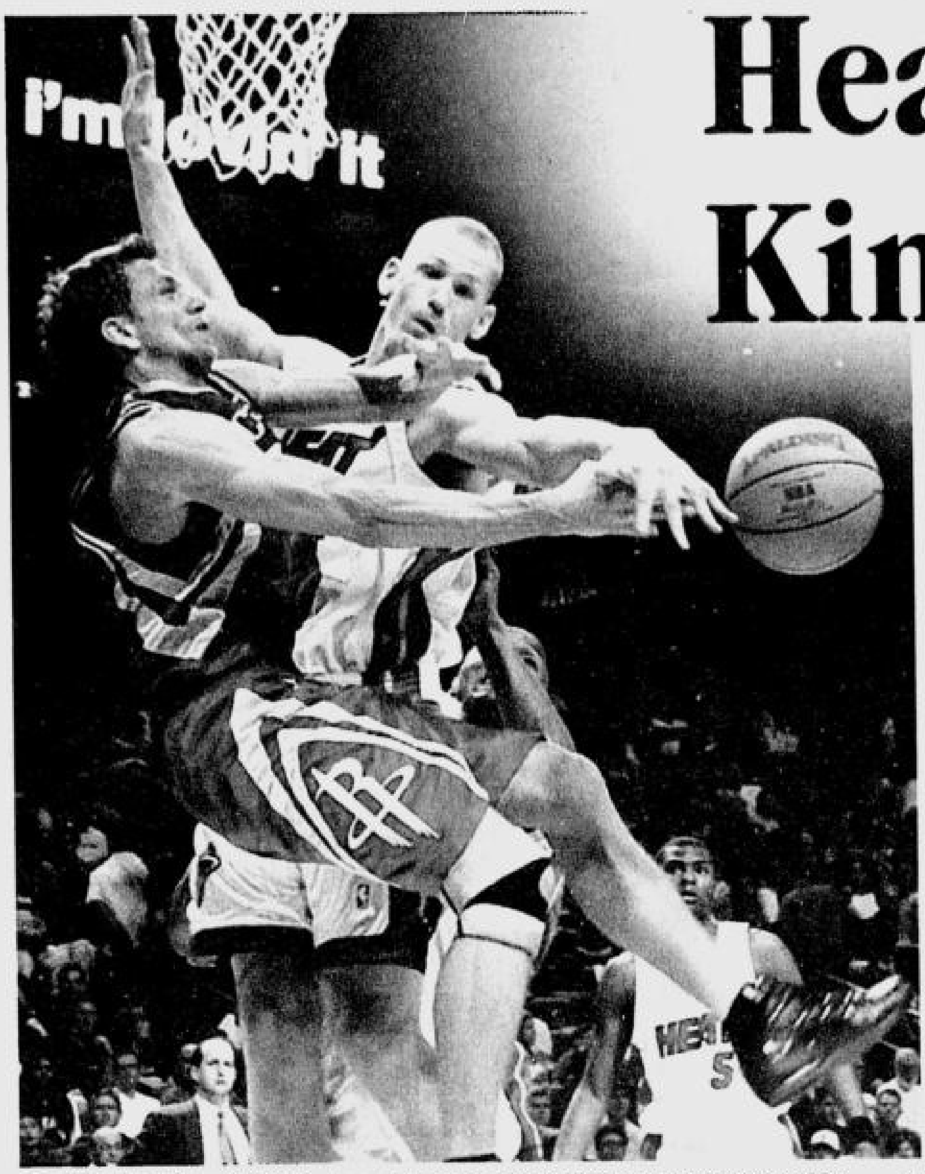
All, because a court of law has strayed—been allowed entry?—in to a hard court.

And all along, I thought basketball is just a game.

***

FASTBREAK. Class 1955 of St. Mary's Academy in Rosario, La Union, will hold its Golden Jubilee on Feb. 8. Broadcaster Hermie Rivera, back in town after spending Christmas with his grandchildren in San Francisco, is one of its most distinguished alumni. Hermie said he'd join the party because "I won't be able to join the second Golden Jubilee of our batch." Hermie said he looks forward to meeting his classmates Betty Florentino, Lourdes Panelo, Marianita Ladia, Anita Fangon and Zenaida Bancan, among others...And, yes, happy birthday to Ching Juvida-Fernandez, who turns a new leaf today.

Heat melt Rockets; Kings rip T'Wolves



ROCKETS' Bob Sura (left) tries to pass the ball as Heat's Michael Doleac harasses him. AP

MIAMI—Dwyane Wade had 30 points, eight rebounds and six assists, leading a balanced attack that carried the Miami Heat to a 104-95 victory over the Houston Rockets on Sunday.

Shaquille O'Neal only took 11 shots and finished with 15 points and five rebounds. Udonis Haslem hit his first seven shots from the floor and finished with 16 for Miami, as did Damon Jones. Eddie Jones added 11.

Tracy McGrady had 28 points for Houston, which lost for the first time in its last four road games. Yao Ming had 12 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter for the Rockets, and Bob Sura added 21—15 of those coming in the game's first 13 minutes.

Miami improved to 33-13, moving 20 games over the .500 mark for the first time since the end of the 1999-2000 season—and giving coach Stan Van Gundy a 2-1 lead in the all-time series against his brother, Rockets coach Jeff Van Gundy.

In Minneapolis, Brad Miller had 27 points, 15 rebounds and plenty of help picking up the slack for two injured stars, sparking the Sacramento Kings to a victory over the sluggish Minnesota Timberwolves.

The Sacramento backcourt, Cuttino Mobley (23 points) and Mike Bibby (21 points), combined for 34 points over the final two quarters following a slow first half. All-Star forwards Peja Stojakovic (back spasms) and Chris Webber (sore left knee) didn't dress for the Kings.

Kevin Garnett had 21 points, 13 rebounds and seven assists for Minnesota, which had its five-game winning streak end raggedly. The quiet crowd that showed up for the Timberwolves' first afternoon tipoff of the season booed when the buzzer sounded.

In Toronto, Amare Stoudemire scored 19 of his 27 points in the third quarter and the Phoenix Suns won their fifth straight with a victory over the Toronto Raptors.

Phoenix outscored Toronto 46-26 in the third quarter, the most points the Raptors have allowed in any quarter in their 10-year history.

Shawn Marion added 21 points and 17 rebounds for the Suns, who went 4-0 on their four-game road trip. Steve Nash had 19 points and 12 assists as all five Phoenix starters scored at least 17 points. Nash, playing in his home country, didn't play in the fourth.

Chris Bosh tied a career high with 27 points for the Raptors, who have lost three straight. Jalen Rose added 21 points.

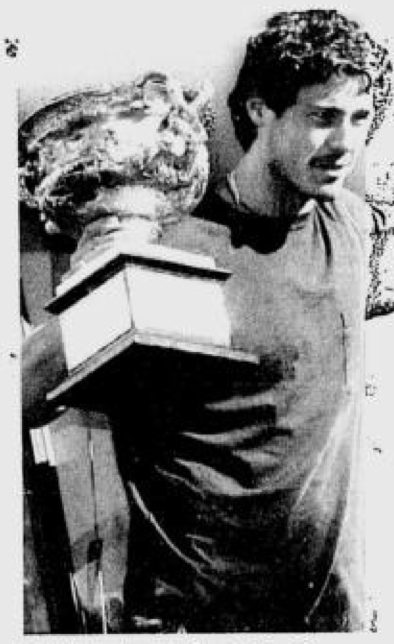
In Cleveland, Drew Gooden scored a career-high 33 points—27 in the second half—and Zydrunas Ilgauskas had 28 points and 18 rebounds as the injury-depleted Cavaliers survived another day without LeBron James.

Ilgauskas and Gooden took over in the second half, scoring 42 of Cleveland's 50 points and adding 16 rebounds after halftime as the Cavaliers improved to an Eastern Conference-best 16-4 at home and 1-1 since losing James.

James sprained his left ankle last week against Memphis and is still too sore to give it a try. Coach Paul Silas expects to have James for Tuesday night's game in Orlando. *AP*

COMPLETE RESULTS: Miami 104, Houston 95; Sacramento 94, Minnesota 84; Phoenix 123, Toronto 105; Cleveland 104, Milwaukee 87; LA Lakers 101, Charlotte 90.

Safin aims for more Grand Slam victories



SAFIN hoists his Australian Open trophy in front of a tram. REUTERS

MELBOURNE, Australia—Marat Safin is looking confidently toward winning more Grand Slam tennis tournaments after breaking through for his first victory at the Australian Open.

The Russian fourth seed got the monkey off his back with a 1-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 triumph over Lleyton Hewitt in Sunday's final to add the Australian title to the 2000 US Open crown when he beat Pete Sampras in straight sets.

Safin recovered from a horrible beginning when he conceded a double service-break to surge home and dash Hewitt's hopes of becoming the first home winner of the Australian Open since Mark Edmondson in 1976.

The likeable Russian was desperate not to become the ninth man in the professional era of tennis to lose three consecutive Grand Slam finals and grew in confidence after looking out of it in an error-ridden opening set.

Safin lost to Roger Federer in straight sets in last year's final and was upset by Swedish 16th seed Thomas Johansson in the 2002 final.

But now the 25-year-old Russian has plenty of optimism ahead for the remaining three Grand Slams, particularly on the clay at Roland Garros and on hardcourt at the US Open.

"It's a relief for me. Two Grand Slams, it's already something. But with this one I worked really hard for it," he said.

"Basically, I would love to win a couple more. I think I have a chance if I continue this way.

"If (coach) Peter Lundgren will stick around with me and wants to work with me for a bit longer, I think I can make it.

"Of course, if I have the opportunity to become number one in the world, I would love to achieve it, but I already have (November 2000). *AFP*

WHIRLWIND romance leads Hewitt and Bec Cartwright to the altar. AFP

Hewitt to marry actress

SYDNEY—Australian Open runner-up Lleyton Hewitt is to marry actress Bec Cartwright after a whirlwind romance, the couple said in a joint statement on Monday.

Hewitt proposed to Cartwright after losing Sunday's final in Melbourne to Russian Marat Safin, thereby missing his chance to become the first Australian in nearly three decades to win the singles title.

"Lleyton and Bec met five years ago at a Starlight Foundation charity tennis day and rekindled their relationship late last year," the statement said.

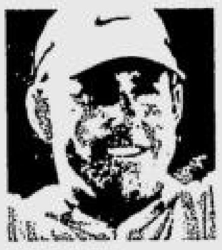
"The couple were instantly committed to each other and their close connection has been well documented in the media through their public acknowledgement and mutual support.

"Bec proudly revealed the ring presented to her by Lleyton...to overjoyed family and friends at the post-tennis final celebrations." Hewitt, 23, had been due to marry Belgian tennis player Kim Clijsters next month but she called the wedding off three months ago following a four-year relationship.

Clijsters lost the women's singles final at the 2004 Australian Open but withdrew from this year's tournament because of injury.

Cartwright also ended a long-term relationship when she split with her actor boyfriend Beau Brady late last year. *Reuters*

Leonard rules Bob Hope Classic



LEONARD

LA QUINTA, California—Justin Leonard claimed his first PGA Tour victory in nearly two years at the $4.7 million Bob Hope Classic on Sunday as fellow American Joe Ogilvie's hopes of a first career win evaporated in the final round.

Leonard, who last won in 2003, posted a five-under-par 67 to win the five-round event played on four desert courses with a score of 28-under 332.

Leonard, who hadn't won in his previous 43 starts, was three shots off the pace entering Sunday's final round. He started strong and took advantage of Ogilvie's shaky play to finish three shots clear of Ogilvie and South African Tim Clark.

Leonard birdied three of the first four holes and started the back nine with a pair of birdies to take command.

"It was a lot of fun to get off to the start that I did, being three-under through four holes." Leonard said. "I didn't think I'd be able to make up the ground as fast as I did." Meanwhile, Ogilvie's round fell apart with bogeys on two of his first three holes, and after a double-bogey on 10, he could not recover.

"The rain dance didn't work last night. I was trying for a rainout but it didn't happen," Ogilvie said. "I'm pretty happy. I certainly didn't play the way I would have liked today, but I got a pretty good front row seat for a great round of golf." With Leonard playing well from the start and Ogilvie trying to go wire-to-wire for his first PGA victory, the pressure became a factor.

"Justin played well, and I think it certainly put Peter (Lonard) and I under the gun a little bit," Ogilvie admitted. Defending champion Phil Mickelson carded a 71 and finished tied for 12th at 21-under.

"I ended up birdieing five par fives but it was the other holes that I wasn't able to make birdies and I made some mistakes," Mickelson said. "I really thought that the scores, that some of the guys were going to come back, and they did, except Justin just took off and played some tremendous golf." *AFP*

Irwin wins record 5th straight Turtle Bay

KAHUKU, Hawaii—The Turtle Bay Championship has become the Hale Irwin Invitational.

Irwin became the first player to win a men's professional tour event five straight times Sunday, easily holding off Dana Quigley by five strokes.

"It's always good to be a part of history and I think this is a very proud moment," said the 59-year-old Irwin, who closed with a 5-under 67 for a record 16-under 200 total.

With his fourth straight win at Turtle Bay and sixth overall title in the event, Irwin pushed his Champions Tour-record victory total to 41.

The three-time US Open champion had shared the mark of four straight victories in an event with Tiger Woods (Bay Hill Invitational, 2000-03), Gene Sarazen (Miami Open, 1926, 1928-30), Walter Hagen (PGA Championship, 1924-27) and Tom Morris Jr. (British Open, 1868-70, 1872).

With the trade wind kicking in, Irwin masterfully controlled the Turtle Bay Resort's balmy, oceanside Palmer Course, breaking his own tournament mark of 11-under 205 set in 2001. He earned $225,000 (euro173,570).

He dressed in a red shirt, blue slacks and a white cap in support of US troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Irwin said his final round game plan was to get off to a fast start and hit all the fairways and greens. *AP*

Bumgarner eyes BMW Asia

THREE-TIME Asian Karting champion Michelle Bumgarner is set to conquer the Formula BMW Asia Championship this year.

She won the "Formula BMW Asia Junior" award recently and was the lone Filipino selected among five Formula BMW Asia Scholarship 2005 recipients.

Thirty-one vied for the Formula BMW scholarship qualifying held in Bahrain. Formula BMW Asia Series manager Matthijs Hoitink said the level of competition for the Formula BMW Asia 2005 Scholarship qualifying has remained competitive.

BUMGARNER shifts to high gear.

Angry Patriots focus on Eagles in Super Bowl

JACKSONVILLE, Florida—The New England Patriots are too well-versed in this Super Bowl stuff and far too classy to get involved in a war of words a full week before the big game.

Well, maybe not.

The Patriots are angry about comments last week from Philadelphia receiver Freddie Mitchell. The defending champions made it clear Sunday when they arrived in Jacksonville that they aren't about to ignore Mitchell dissing their secondary, particularly star safety Rodney Harrison.

"When he says something like that," linebacker-lineman Willie McGinest said of Mitchell, "he's disrespecting our whole defense. Not only Rodney, but me and Tedy Bruschi and Mike Vrabel and all the rest of us."

That Mitchell has been an underachieving backup for Terrell Owens hasn't escaped New England's notice. Owens, sidelined since Game 14 with torn ankle ligaments, still hasn't practiced but has been running and no longer has a limp.

Considering how the Patriots might be gunning for Mitchell next Sunday, maybe the Eagles need Owens more than ever.

But even if the All-Pro receiver returns—coach Andy Reid said he will be evaluated daily—he isn't likely to be a focal point of Philadelphia's offense. And he probably won't get nearly the attention from the Patriots during their media sessions as Mitchell will receive. *AP*

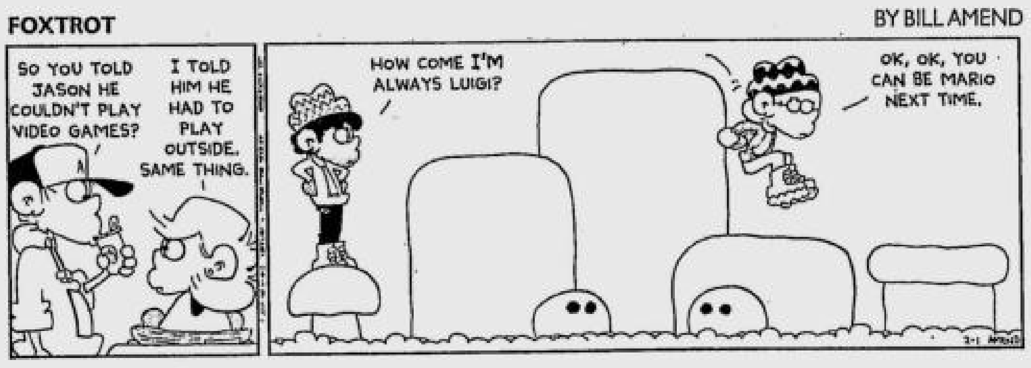
Sports Plus airing game

SPORTS Plus will air Superbowl XXXIX on Feb. 7 at 7 a.m. with the New England Patriots and the Philadelphia Eagles clashing in the most-awaited event of the year in the National Football League.

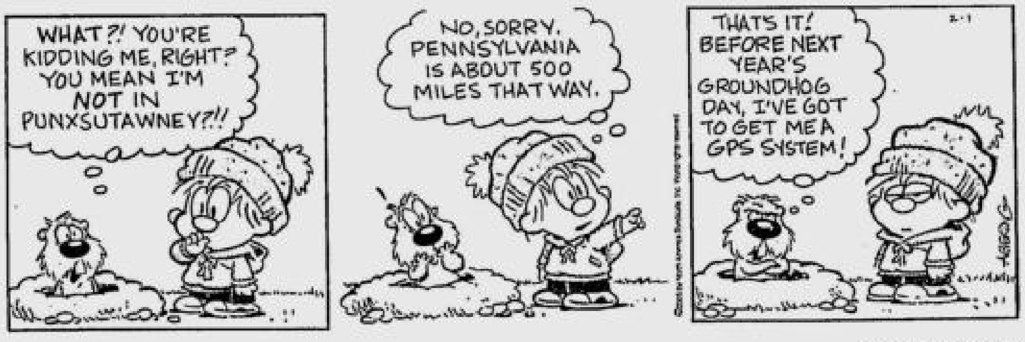
Sports Plus will also show past Superbowls every 12 a.m. from Feb. 1-6 as an appetizer to the Patriots-Eagles face-off. The National Sports Grill on Greenbelt 1 will host a viewing party on Feb. 7 at 7 a.m. where NFL merchandise and other prices will be given away.

After lording it over in the American Football Conference, the Patriots are seeking complete domination in the NFL against the Eagles, who were crowned National Football Conference champions.

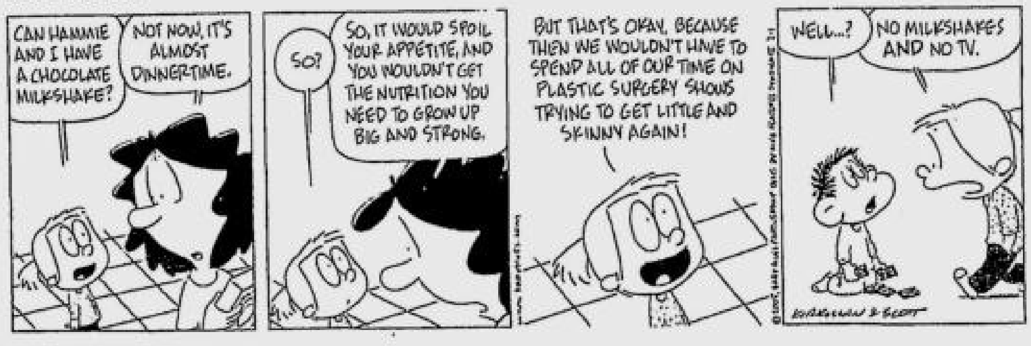
FOXTROT
BY BILL AMEND


SO YOU TOLD JASON HE COULDN'T PLAY VIDEO GAMES?
I TOLD HIM HE HAD TO PLAY OUTSIDE. SAME THING.
HOW COME I'M ALWAYS LUIGI?
OK, OK, YOU CAN BE MARIO NEXT TIME.

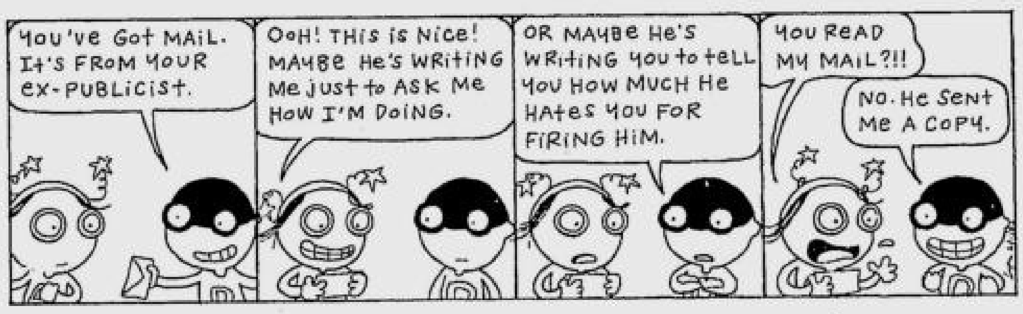
MARVIN
BY TOM ARMSTRONG


WHAT?! YOU'RE KIDDING ME, RIGHT? YOU MEAN I'M NOT IN PUNXSUTAWNEY?!!
NO, SORRY. PENNSYLVANIA IS ABOUT 500 MILES THAT WAY.
THAT'S IT! BEFORE NEXT YEAR'S GROUNDHOG DAY, I'VE GOT TO GET ME A GPS SYSTEM!

BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


CAN HAMMIE AND I HAVE A CHOCOLATE MILKSHAKE?
NOT NOW, IT'S ALMOST DINNERTIME.
SO?
SO, IT WOULD SPOIL YOUR APPETITE, AND YOU WOULDN'T GET THE NUTRITION YOU NEED TO GROW UP BIG AND STRONG.
BUT THAT'S OKAY, BECAUSE THEN WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO SPEND ALL OF OUR TIME ON PLASTIC SURGERY SHOWS TRYING TO GET LITTLE AND SKINNY AGAIN!
WELL...?
NO MILKSHAKES AND NO TV.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO


You've Got MAIL. It's FROM YOUR ex-PUBLICIST.
OOH! THIS is Nice! MAYBE He's WRITING Me just to ASK Me HOW I'M DOING.
OR MAYBE He's WRITING You to tell You How Much He Hates You FOR FIRING HIM.
You READ MY MAIL?!!
No. He Sent Me A COPY.

HOROSCOPE
BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're bright, courageous and willful. You're also very solid and grounded. (You can be a lot to deal with, if you choose.) You're also very sensuous and idealistic. When young, you can be impulsive and rash. Nevertheless, people admire your spirit and verve. Be prepared to set off in a new direction this year. New avenues beckon you!

Birthdate of: Don Everly, singer; Lee Thompson Young, actor; Clark Gable, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): The next six months give you an excellent opportunity to renegotiate partnerships and work out any wrinkles with significant others. Do what you can.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Although things have been improving at work ,these might come to a standstill for the first half of this year. You're in a holding pattern. Just wait it out as best you can.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): In the next 6 months, you might renegotiate deals about show business and the hospitality industry. This is also an excellent time to finish artistic projects.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Now is the time to go back to plans you had to make your home bigger or better. Try out your ideas. You can get a lot done before summertime.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): For the next six months, you have a wonderful opportunity to renegotiate arrangements with siblings, relatives and neighbors. Sort things out. By July, it's all systems go!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Plans to increase your earnings might be on hold for the next six months. Do not let this discourage you. The money will come! (Definitely.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Feelings from the past or habitual patterns of relating to others will arise quite strongly in the next two months. However, by July, you'll approach these relationships differently.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You have an opportunity this year to retrace your steps or relearn certain spiritual practices. This gives you a chance to find out if something is important to you or not.

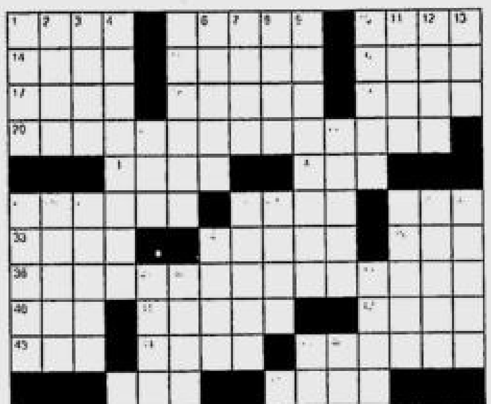
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Your involvement with groups or perhaps with a particular friend will shift significantly in July. Until then, enjoy your opportunity to see these familiar faces.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Exciting career opportunities will bless you this year. However, you might have to wait until July for them to really kick in. Until then it's a waiting game.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Publishing opportunities and chances to travel or go back to school are abundant this year. You might have to wait till late summer to reap these rewards.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Partnerships and the wealth of others will bless you this year. But you might have to wait until after July to really collect in a big way.

DAILY CROSSWORD

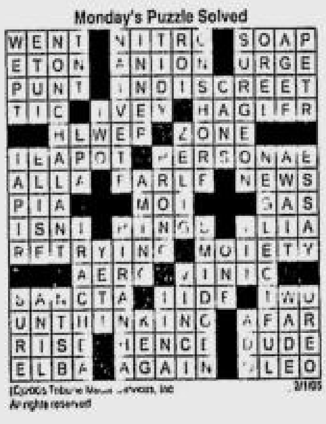


By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD
2/1/05

ACROSS
1 Workout locations
5 Brushes the surface
10 Falls back
14 Muddy the waters
15 Synagogue scroll
16 Stead
17 Goggle at
18 Poetic Muse
19 Slight advantage
20 Roomy areas
23 Post-larval stage
24 Illuminated
25 Well-mannered
28 Really dry
30 Decorative vase
33 Soon
34 Bowie's weapon
35 Natal lead-in
36 Soupcons
40 Fit out
41 Recital pieces
42 Improve a road
43 Green card org.
44 Small-ish deck member
45 Fingered a rhythm
47 Jiffy
48 Move merchandise
49 Confining locations
56 Way out
57 Indian royalty
58 Asian range
59 Calendar period
60 Roast host
61 Only fair
62 Contrary current
63 Back ends
64 Blunted sword

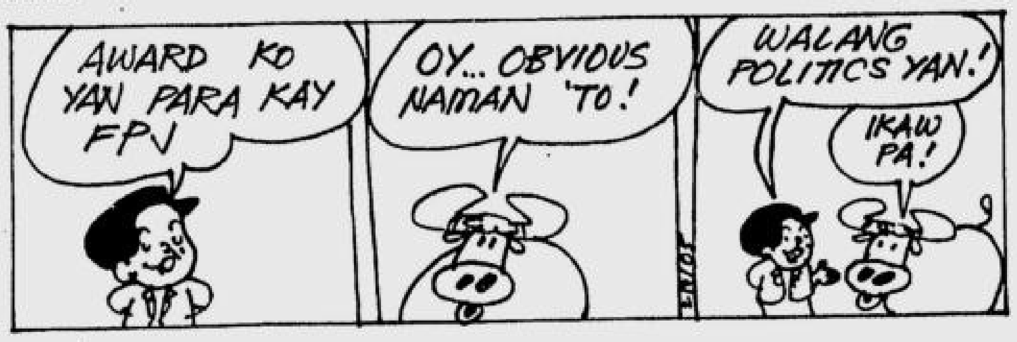
DOWN
1 Increase
2 Lawrence Peter Berra
3 Balmy
4 Nighttime activity
5 Vast Asian expanse
6 Divided Asian country
7 Persia, today
8 Tangled masses
9 Take a five-finger discount
10 Chosen ones
11 Tarry
12 Panhandles
13 Bring legal action
21 Not in the running
22 One who helped out
25 Singer Page
26 Gazpacho ingredient
27 Nia and Shelley
28 Irk
29 Shakes off
30 Flip a lid off
31 "Superman" star
32 Nuzzled
34 Leafy green vegetable
37 Statesman Kefauver
38 Wizard
39 Ovation
45 Sioux shelters
46 Omni's meaning
47 Pitiful
48 Haughty gaze
49 College student
50 Freight weight
51 Lord's lady
52 Ancient Peruvian
53 Riding whip
54 Life of Riley
55 Wild plum
56 Salon supply

Monday's Puzzle Solved

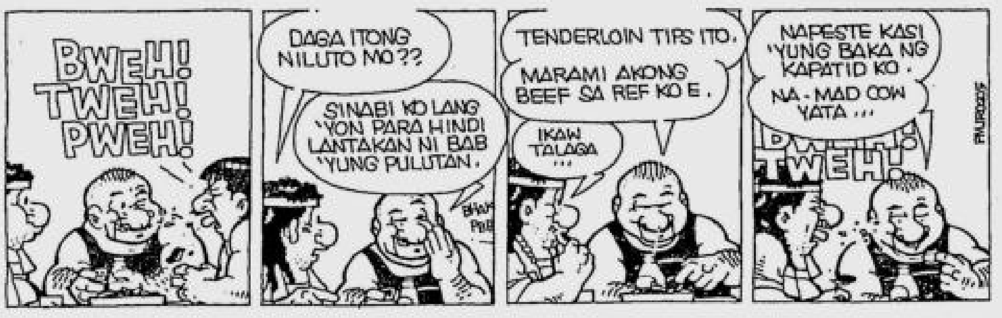


©2005 Tribune Media Services, Inc
All rights reserved
2/1/05

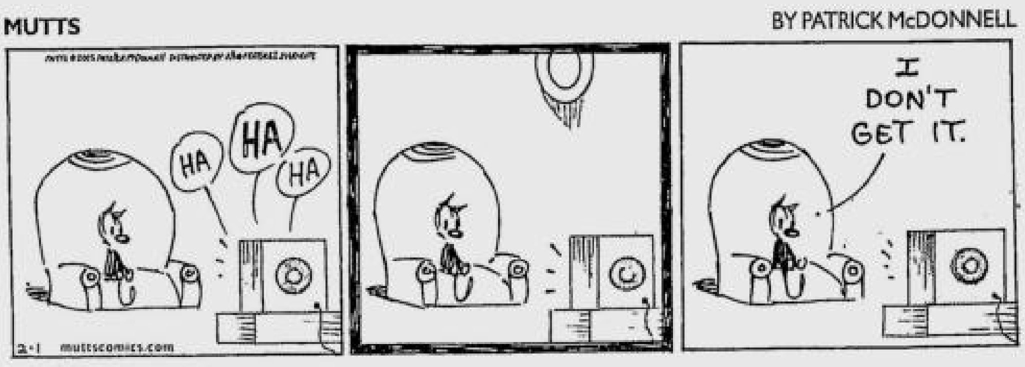
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


AWARD KO YAN PARA KAY FPJ
OY... OBVIOUS NAMAN 'TO!
WALANG POLITICS YAN.!
IKAW PA!

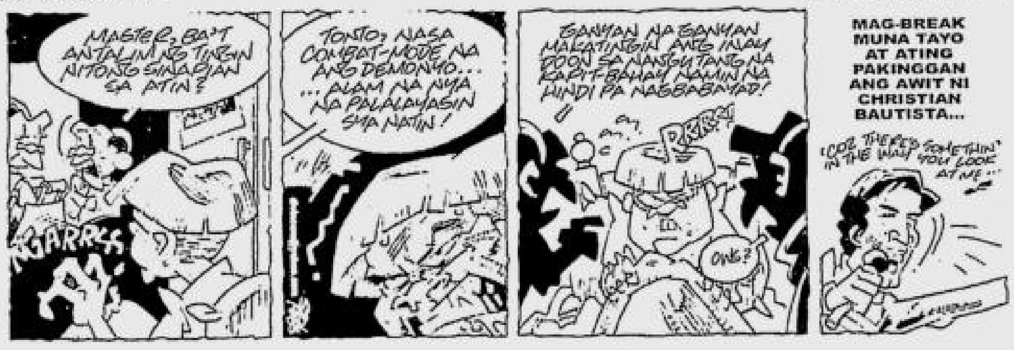
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


BWEH! TWEH! PWEH!
DAGA ITONG NILUTO MO??
SINABI KO LANG 'YON PARA HINDI LANTAKAN NI BAB 'YUNG PULUTAN.
TENDERLOIN TIPS ITO.
MARAMI AKONG BEEF SA REF KO E.
IKAW TALAGA ...
NAPESTE KASI 'YUNG BAKA NG KAPATID KO.
NA-MAD COW YATA ...
BWEH! TWEH!

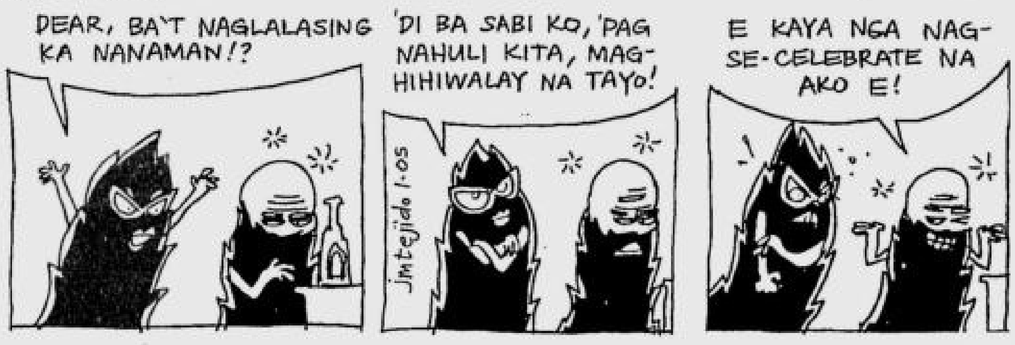
MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HA
HA
HA
I DON'T GET IT.
2-1 muttscomics.com

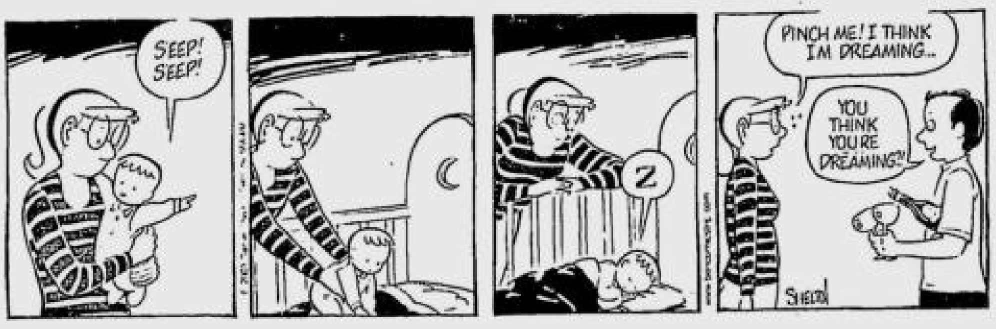
DIVINE COMEDY
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


MASTER, BA'T ANTALIM NG TINGIN NITONG SINAPIAN SA ATIN?
TONTO, NASA COMBAT-MODE NA ANG DEMONYO... ...ALAM NA NYA NA PALALAYASIN SYA NATIN!
GANYAN NA GANYAN MAKATINGIN ANG INAY DOON SA NANGUNGUTANG NA KAPIT-BAHAY NAMIN NA HINDI PA NAGBABAYAD!
GARRR
ONE?
MAG-BREAK MUNA TAYO AT ATING PAKINGGAN ANG AWIT NI CHRISTIAN BAUTISTA...
'COZ THERE'S SOMETHIN' IN THE WAY YOU LOOK AT ME...'

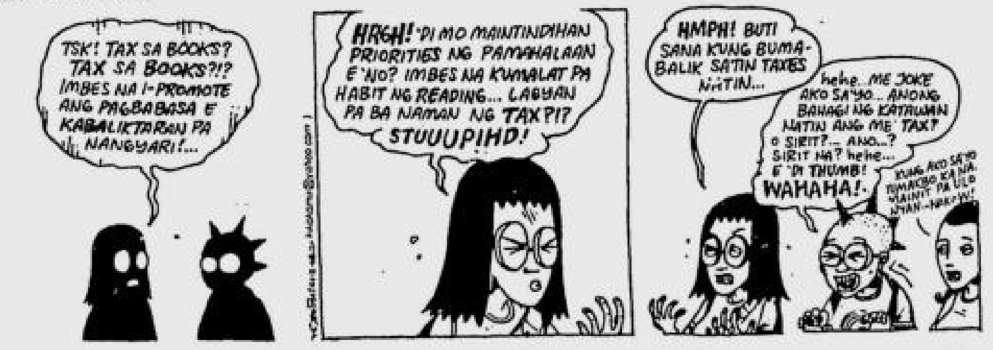
MIKROKOSMOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


DEAR, BA'T NAGLALASING KA NANAMAN!?
'DI BA SABI KO, 'PAG NAHULI KITA, MAG-HIHIWALAY NA TAYO!
E KAYA NGA NAG-SE-CELEBRATE NA AKO E!
jmtejido 1-05

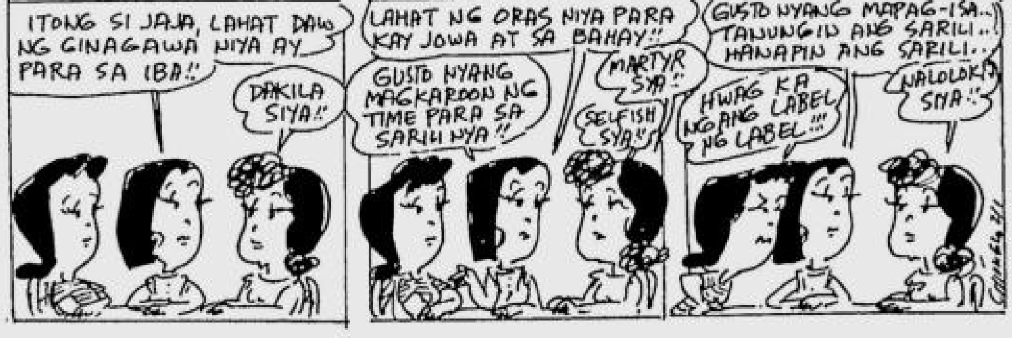
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


SEEP! SEEP!
Z
PINCH ME! I THINK I'M DREAMING...
YOU THINK YOU'RE DREAMING?!
SHELTON

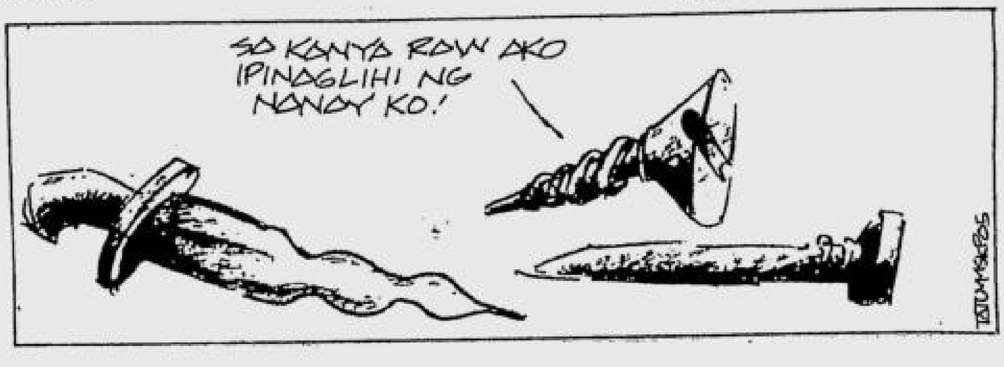
KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA


TSK! TAX SA BOOKS? TAX SA BOOKS?!? IMBES NA I-PROMOTE ANG PAGBABASA E KABALIKTARAN PA NANGYARI!...
HRGH! 'DI MO MAINTINDIHAN PRIORITIES NG PAMAHALAAN E 'NO? IMBES NA KUMALAT PA HABIT NG READING... LAGYAN PA BA NAMAN NG TAX?!? STUUUPIHD!
HMPH! BUTI SANA KUNG BUMA-BALIK SATIN TAXES NATIN...
hehe.. ME JOKE AKO SA'YO.. ANONG BAHAGI NG KATAWAN NATIN ANG ME' TAX? O SIRIT?... ANO...? SIRIT NA? hehe... E 'DI THUMB! WAHAHA!.

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ITONG SI JAJA, LAHAT DAW NG GINAGAWA NIYA AY PARA SA IBA!!
DAKILA SIYA!!
LAHAT NG ORAS NIYA PARA KAY JOWA AT SA BAHAY!!
GUSTO NYANG MAGKAROON NG TIME PARA SA SARILI NYA!!
MARTYR SYA!!
SELFISH SYA!!
GUSTO NYANG MAPAG-ISA.. TANUNGIN ANG SARILI.. HANAPIN ANG SARILI..
HWAG KA NG ANG LABEL NG LABEL!!!
NALOLOKA SYA!!

TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


SO KANYA RAW AKO IPINAGLIHI NG NANAY KO!
TATUM MILAMBILING 05

Guess list

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

GUESS WHO? This married action star has made womanizing a way of life. His wife deserves to be called the martyr of all martyrs. The action star's model/girlfriend caught him one night in the house of his other paramour (a sexy star). The model was getting suspicious because the action star kept rejecting her calls. Female intuition never fails. She had a feeling that he was still seeing the sexy star, so she stormed the ritzy subdivision where the bombshell lives. True enough, she saw the action star's van parked there. To appease the model, the action star stepped out and a heated argument ensued. But being the incorrigible playboy that he is, the action star found a way to get back at the model. He questioned her about the sports car she was driving that night because he knew it wasn't hers. It turns out that the car belonged to the model's other boytoy. So it was the model who had to apologize. When, oh when, will this action star meet his match?

Guess who? This up-and-coming TV host has a kinky fetish! She is into menage a trois. The pretty young thing is so well-known among the hunks in her glam circuit because she casually invites men to join in her regular orgies. Wonder if she will also entice her co-host (a comedian) to participate soon. Looking at her, no one would think she is a mean sex machine. She seems so angelic and naïve but then again looks can be really deceiving, huh?

'Men's Room' is back

THE AWARD-winning production house Scribbleworks has ventured into a comical adult-themed show for this year.

The new "Men's Room" gets funnier and naughtier on its third season with the FHM girls! **RJ Ledesma** and **Tim Tayag** go way out and wacky with their explosive lineup of guests. **Phoemela Baranda, Avi Siwa, Miranda, Mariel De Palma** and **Regine Tolentino**, to name a few, will definitely be testing the duo.

Plus, catch a glimpse of an outrageous mixture of humor and wit with their hilarious Top Ten List, Love Letters and Date Rate segments. And, of course, more gorgeous girls will be part of this season! If you want heart-wrenching, feel-good, uplifting TV, watch "Oprah." And right after, stay tuned for "Men's Room" and have a great laugh!

Watch out for the new "Men's Room" on Studio 23, 11:30 p.m. starting , Feb. 1. Your late night TV watching will never be the same again!

'MTV Asia Aid'

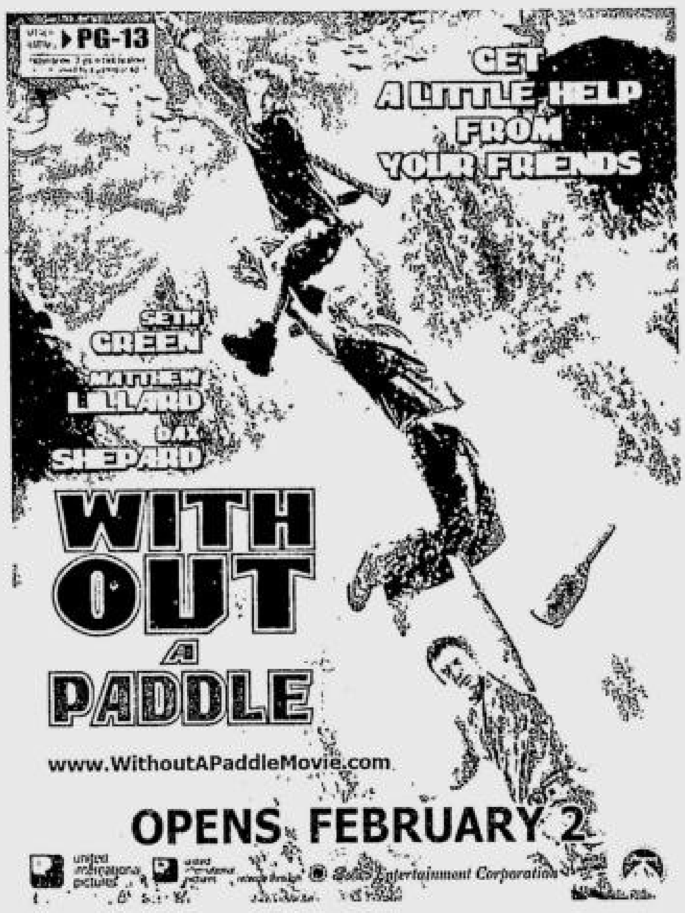
MUSIC lovers and fans have a good reason to step out and celebrate on Thursday, when MTV Philippines joins the worldwide musical event, "MTV Asia Aid," through a local viewing party set to take place at the colorful Fiesta Carnival at the newly revamped Araneta Center in Cubao, starting at 6:30 p.m.

In light of the recent events in Asia, MTV Networks International recently converted the annual "MTV Asia Awards" show into a global benefit featuring **Alicia Keys**, with live performances from **Good Charlotte, Kelly Clarkson**, Hoobastank, and Simple Plan, along with top artists from across Asia, which is set to take place in Bangkok, Thailand, on Thursday.

Locally, MTV Philippines is gearing up for the viewing party to take place in Manila at the same time as the "MTV Asia Aid" benefit in Bangkok. The "MTV Asia Aid" Philippine Viewing Party will feature a live feed from Bangkok of the MTV Asia Aid concert, along with live performances from Dice & K9, Kjwan, and Radioactive Sago Project. The event is open to the public; entrance is free. The viewing party will also serve as a fundraising event to support Unicef's efforts to assist children affected by the recent tsunamis in South Asia and the typhoons in the Philippines. Funds will be raised through the donations generated from the various booths, rides, and fun activities that will be available all evening for the public to enjoy.

In addition, international superstar **Jennifer Lopez** will contribute a pre-recorded performance. **Sting, 50 Cent, Ricky Martin, Nelly**, Green Day, **Moby**, and **Ronan Keating** have also taped special messages of support. The broadcast will premiere on all MTV channels worldwide to a potential audience of more than one billion people.

(For feedback, e-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com)



PG-13
GET A LITTLE HELP FROM YOUR FRIENDS
SETH GREEN
MATTHEW LILLARD
DAX SHEPARD
WITHOUT A PADDLE
www.WithoutAPaddleMovie.com
OPENS FEBRUARY 2
Solar Entertainment Corporation

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
Telephone: 633.2227 / 633.7851 loc. 171
PREMIERE THEATRE
(DOLBY) MEET THE FOCKERS PG13
1 (DOLBY) ELEKTRA PG13
2 (DOLBY) ELEKTRA PG13
3 (DOLBY) ITS ALL ABOUT LOVE PG13
4 (DOLBY) MEET THE FOCKERS PG13

SUPER CINERAMA
isetann
CINERAMA COMPLEX RECTO
tel 733.4238
1. (DOLBY) BAD SIGAW
2. AISHITE IMASU 1941
3. HAPPY TOGETHER
4. SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
5. ENTENG KABISOTE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 (SDDS) RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 (DOLBY) RESERVE
7 (DTS) RESERVE
8 RESERVE
9 RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 SECRETARY
2 HAUNTED SPIRIT -2

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) HAYOP SA PORMA HANEP SA GANDA
2 KAULAYAW
3 DARK DANCER
4 (DTS) BLACK THUNDER

Filinvest
FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) MEET THE FOCKERS
2 (SDDS) ELEKTRA
3 (DTS) OCEAN'S TWELVE
4 GOLD (DTS) ELEKTRA
5 GOLD (DOLBY) MEET THE FOCKERS
6 GOLD (SDDS) ELEKTRA
7 GOLD (DOLBY) IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE
8 (DTS) KUNG FU HUSTLE
9 (DTS) WHITE NOISE
10 (DTS) BLADE TRINITY

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290, 833.3274
1 HAYOP SA PORMA HANEP SA GANDA
2 ELEKTRA
3 SCHOLL OF SEDUCTION

MARIKINA
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 ELEKTRA
2 ONE MISSED CALL
3
4 NAKAW NA SANDALI

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007
1 (DOLBY) HAPPY TOGETHER
2 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) ELEKTRA
2 (DOLBY) MEET THE FOCKERS
3 (DOLBY) ELEKTRA
4 (DOLBY) ALL ABOUT LOVE

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta Center
ALI MALL CINEPLEX
tel 911-3101 loc. 8242 / 8281 / 8397
1 (Dolby) ELEKTRA
2 (SDDS) MEET THE FOCKERS
3 (DTS) BLADE: TRINITY
4 (Dolby) SCHOOL FOR SEDUCTION
5 (Dolby) HAYOP SA PORMA

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 MADHOUSE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) ELEKTRA
5 PERLAS

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 PERLAS
2 MASARAP ANG UNANG KAGAT
3 KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 RETURN OF THE DEMONS
5 (DOLBY) ELEKTRA
6 BLADE TRINITY

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

SM CINEMA movietime

JENNIFER GARNER
ELEKTRA
BORN TO FIGHT. TRAINED TO KILL.
FROM THE FOX THAT BROUGHT YOU "X-MEN"
NOW SHOWING IN 19 SM CINEMA BRANCHES NATIONWIDE

OPENS THIS WEEK

ELEKTRA
MTRCB RATING: PG13
Now Showing at:
SM Megamall • Manila • North Edsa • Sta. Mesa • Southmall Fairview • Sucat • Bicutan

SCHOOL FOR SEDUCTION
MTRCB RATING: R13
Now Showing at:
SM Megamall • Manila Fairview • Sta. Mesa Southmall

NOW SHOWING

THE PODIUM CINEMA
For Seat Reservation, call 633 8976
LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
1 ELEKTRA
2 MEET THE FOCKERS

METRO MANILA

sm megamall
1 ELEKTRA
2 WHITE NOISE
3 MEET THE FOCKERS
4 KUNG FU HUSTLE
5 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE
6 BLADE TRINITY
7 RAISE YOUR VOICE
8 MAD HOUSE
9 OCEAN'S TWELVE
10 ELEKTRA
11 SCHOOL FOR SEDUCTION
12 UNO

sm city fairview
1 WHITE NOISE
2 OCEAN'S TWELVE
3 NATIONAL TREASURE
4 BLADE TRINITY
5 MEET THE FOCKERS
6 ELEKTRA
7 ELEKTRA
8 KUNG FU HUSTLE
9 UNO
10 SCHOOL FOR SEDUCTION
11 HONEY
12 MAD HOUSE

sm city manila
1 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE
2 MEET THE FOCKERS
3 WHITE NOISE
4 ELEKTRA
5 OCEAN'S TWELVE
6 ELEKTRA
7 SCHOOL FOR SEDUCTION
8 RAISE YOUR VOICE
9 KUNG FU HUSTLE
10 BLADE TRINITY
11 SALSA (AN SM CINEMA EXCLUSIVE)
12 MAD HOUSE

sm city sta. mesa
1 BLADE TRINITY
2 MEET THE FOCKERS
3 ELEKTRA
4 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON
5 ELEKTRA
6 SALSA (AN SM CINEMA EXCLUSIVE)
7 KUNG FU HUSTLE
8 SCHOOL FOR SEDUCTION
9 OCEAN'S TWELVE
10 WHITE NOISE

sm city southmall
1 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE
2 KUNG FU HUSTLE
3 ELEKTRA
4 MEET THE FOCKERS
5 MAD HOUSE
6 UNO
7 HAYOP SA PORMA, HAYOP SA GANDA
8 BLADE TRINITY
9 OCEAN'S TWELVE
10 SCHOOL FOR SEDUCTION

sm city north edsa
1 BLADE TRINITY
2 KUNG FU HUSTLE
3 HAYOP SA PORMA, HAYOP SA GANDA
4 OCEAN'S TWELVE
5 WHITE NOISE
6 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE
7 MEET THE FOCKERS
8 ELEKTRA

sm cinema tutuban
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
RESERVED
4 RESERVED

sm supercenter sucat
1 RAISE YOUR VOICE
2 ELEKTRA
3 MEET THE FOCKERS
4 WHITE NOISE

sm city bicutan
1 ELEKTRA
2 UNO
3 MAD HOUSE
4 MEET THE FOCKERS

Movies are subject to change without prior notice • For complete movie schedule, visit www.smcinema.com

CALL!
DIAL 833-9999 FOR INFORMATION AND MOVIE LISTINGS, MTRCB RATINGS AND SCREENING SCHEDULES.

SURF!
VISIT US AT www.smcinema.com FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA.

goingon

MTRCB Rating: PG13

AN SM CINEMA EXCLUSIVE!
SALSA
"The girls like them chocolate brown". Remi Bonnet, a brilliant performer of Chopin, outrages his family and his teacher when he gives up an international career to play the music he has loved- Cuban music. In a city where most undocumented aliens want to become French, Remi Bonnet deliberately takes on the identity, accent and dark complexion of Felipe, his Cuban friend in order to blend into the Paris latino community and to teach Salsa dancing at the Casa Cubana...this is where he meets Nathalie, a shy girl who becomes a bomb on the dance floor.
TODAY
SM MANILA • STA. MESA
Get started with the "Salsa Fever" as it heats up SM Cinemas on January 19!

Ethnic twist gives 'Kumars' show its idiosyncratic appeal

From page A28

elor, falls deliriously in love with her—even if she could lead to his unmasking in the press.

After playing the role, can Smith share some romantic "date doctor" tips with us? He breezily obliges: "There's a line in the movie that says it well: 'She wants the real you . . . but, she just doesn't want it all at once!' What that means is that you can't completely overwhelm someone with your emotions. It's all about the controlled release. You have to play some of the courtship games that have been going on for centuries."

Loud and clear?

'Design in the Southern Hemisphere'

ON FEB. 5 at 8:30 p.m. on CNN, "Design in the Southern Hemisphere" presents these features:

Napier, New Zealand: An earthquake and subsequent fires devastated Napier in the 1930s. Despite being a world away from the design hubs of Europe and America, architectural influences like the Art Deco, Spanish Mission and Stripped Classical rose from the ashes. Napier's Art Deco is unique, with Maori motifs and the buildings of **Louis Hay**, a follower of architect **Frank Llyod Wright**.

Sydney Opera House: Danish architect **John Utzon** was chosen to build the Sydney Opera House in 1957. It was an ambitious project that took 14 years to complete. Utzon resigned before it was finished, because of disagreements .with the state government. Now, more than three decades later, he's back, working on the first structural changes at the opera house.

Kylie's Costume Exhibition: **Kylie Minogue** has donated more than 300 items from her personal collection of career memorabilia to the Arts Center in Melbourne, her hometown. The collection, which includes the costume she wore in "Moulin Rouge" and the famous gold hot pants that re-launched her career, are part of an exhibition that will tour in Australia in 2005 and 2006.

Surfboard Design: Aussies didn't invent the surfboard, but some of the best designers and board riders call Australia home. We travel to Torquay in Victoria and the Gold Coast in Queensland to trace the evolution of the surfboard Down Under.

Prototypes: This feature focuses on Australians who've made a name for themselves in the world of design, like **Marc Newson** (product design/furniture) and **Richard Nicoll** (fashion).

Movies on TV

ON HBO, Feb. 1 at 7:45 p.m., "Catch Me If You Can." Feb. 2 at 10 a.m., "Maria's Lovers." 11:45 a.m., "The Mirror Has Two Faces. 7:15 p.m., "Anger Management."

On Cinemax, Feb. 1 at 10:45 p.m., "The Accused." 2 a.m., "Splendor in the Grass." Feb. 2 at 7:45 a.m., "Bonnie and Clyde."

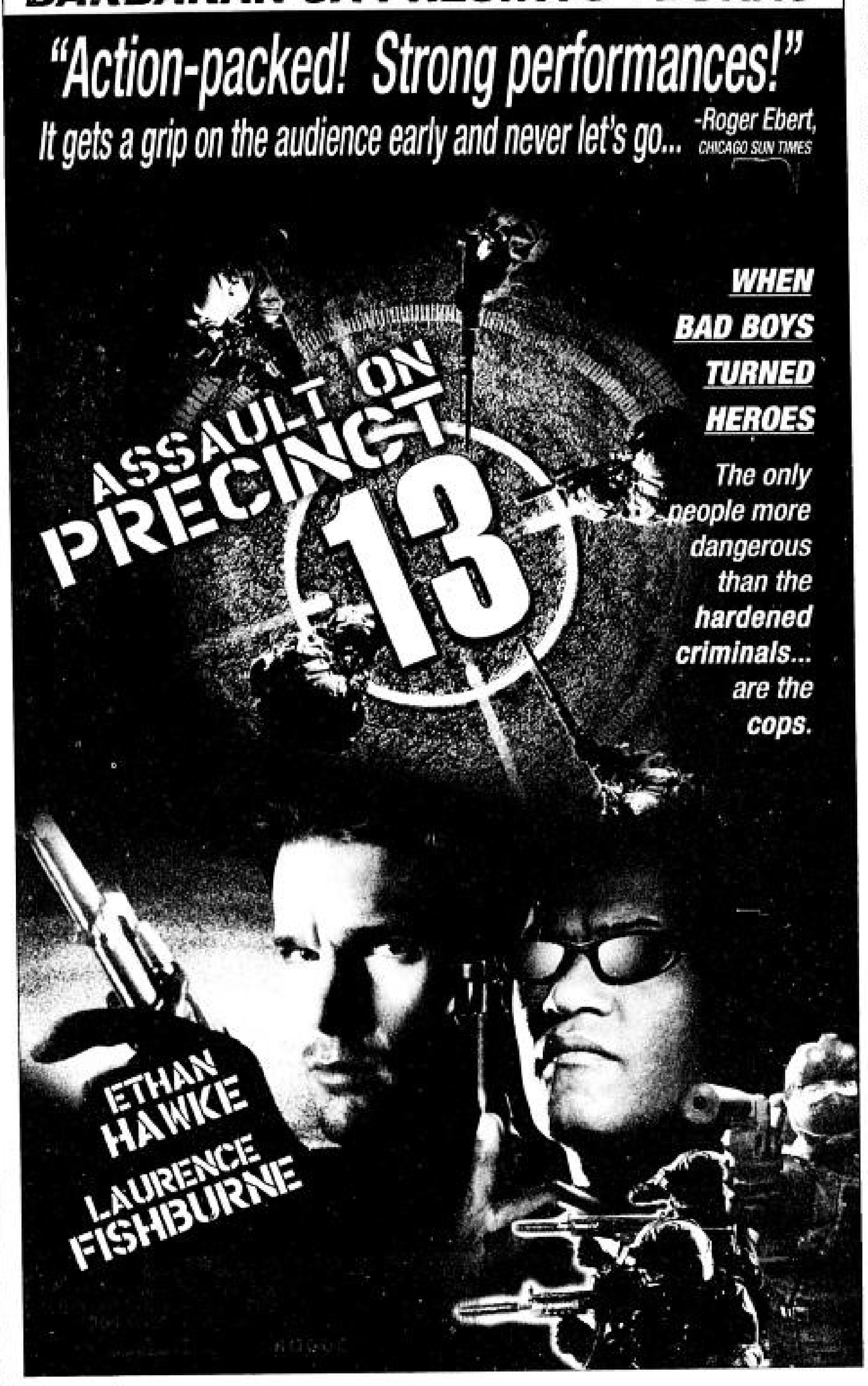
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
$85M SUPER PRODUCTION FROM WARNER BROS.
OPENS FEBRUARY 9
3 ACADEMY AWARDS NOMINATIONS
ART DIRECTION • CINEMATOGRAPHY • ORIGINAL SONG
3 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS
BEST PICTURE • BEST ACTRESS • BEST ORIGINAL SONG

Andrew Lloyd Webber's classic tale of terror, mystery and romance, seen by over 8 million people worldwide, comes to the big screen for the first time.
The PHANTOM of the OPERA

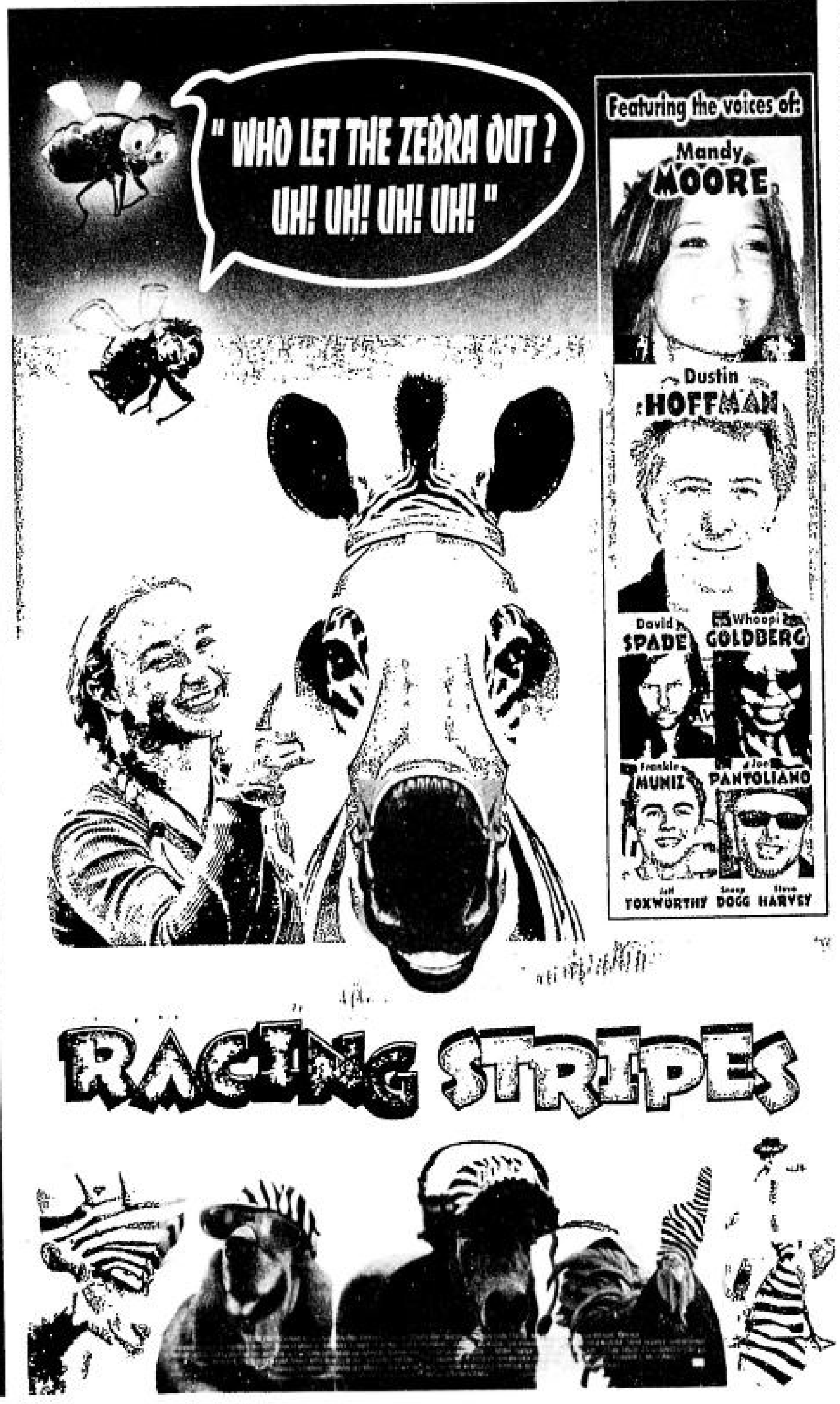
JENNIFER GARNER
BORN TO FIGHT. TRAINED TO KILL.
ELEKTRA
MARVEL
NOW SHOWING

From the director of "Amelie" comes another heartwarming film...
A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
Showing on FEBRUARY 2 at ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD
For SCREENING SCHEDULES, pls. call our CINEMA ACCESS: 635-5555 or visit us www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
MTRCB Rating R-13
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "AMELIE"
A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
BAKBAKAN SA PRESINTO - BUKAS


"Action-packed! Strong performances!"
It gets a grip on the audience early and never let's go... -Roger Ebert, CHICAGO SUN TIMES
WHEN BAD BOYS TURNED HEROES
The only people more dangerous than the hardened criminals... are the cops.
ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
ETHAN HAWKE
LAURENCE FISHBURNE

OPENS TOMORROW
#1 FEEL GOOD MOVIE OF THE YEAR !


" WHO LET THE ZEBRA OUT ? UH! UH! UH! UH! "
Featuring the voices of:
Mandy MOORE
Dustin HOFFMAN
David SPADE
Whoopi GOLDBERG
Frankie MUNIZ
Joe PANTOLIANO
Jeff FOXWORTHY
Snoop DOGG
Steve HARVEY
RACING STRIPES

Hollywood, here he comes!

From page A28

fan of Abaya's.

Recalls Montano: "They wondered how *direk* Abaya was able to do that film with a lot of underwater scenes involving many young divers."

So in this mountain camp in Brisbane, they set up tents and led spartan lives. For two weeks, they woke up at five in the morning, did 30-minute calisthenics and then ran four miles nonstop. Then they went back to camp, changed into guerilla uniforms and continued training until sundown. They were given one towel, three pairs of socks and one small flashlight. Cameras, cell phones and radios were not allowed. They were given no breakfast, only lunch and dinner. They prepared dinner themselves, with firewood.

> In training camp, the cast was made to experience a life as close as possible to that of real guerillas during the war

Staying warm

There was one final session every night called the stand-down, where the trainees gathered around a bonfire to discuss their parts and bone up on the story of the war. Montano remembers how he had to stay close to the bonfire, because it was so cold, on account of the chilly winter wind. "If you are late coming to the bonfire," he says, "you landed in the last row, where the cold was unbearable."

They had the same training director as the cast of Steven Spielberg's "Saving Private Ryan" and Oliver Stone's "Platoon."

When life at the Brisbane camp started, Montano was already dressed as Captain Juan Pajota. There were about 10 Filipinos under him, with another Filipino stage actor, Elmo Joson, as his second-in-command. Joson is the great grandson of the true-life Filipino guerilla on whose story the movie is based.

Another Filipino in the cast is Paolo Montalban, but he plays the role of an American scout.

Fun at last

"The point of the rigid training," continues Montano, "was to bring out the real soldier in you. [The director said] being a guerilla should register on your face, your weight, and in the way you think. We were taught how to carry guns correctly, how to lob grenades, how to salute the guerilla way. Our guns were supposed to be treated as our wives, and kept with us even when we relieved ourselves. We were taught how to retreat during an ambush and how to react during surprise raids."

Two weeks in that camp felt like one whole year, Montano says, but when actual shooting started, it was a breeze, and at last he started having fun. How did he get along with the American director?

Montano's impressions: "He is very honest and very disciplined but open-minded. He doesn't act out what you are supposed to do. Sometimes he'd figure out how I'd approach a certain part and when I did, he'd tell me what was good, what was lacking and what could be effective. Sometimes he would ask: Can you do another thing for me? Can you add a little tension or intensity?"

Also in "The Great Raid" is Montano's brother, Rommel, who plays the part of a guerilla working for an American doctor played by Connie Nielsen, star of "Gladiator."

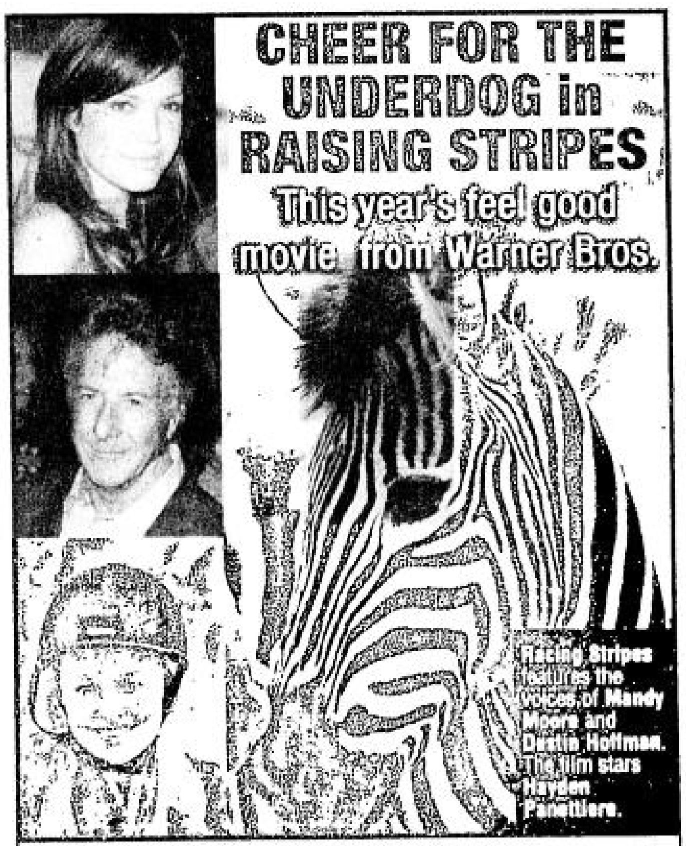
Needless to say, Montano is very excited about this Hollywood break. He recently saw the first edited version and couldn't believe his eyes. There he was, with distinguished Hollywood performers in a Hollywood movie made with an honest-to-goodness budget.

In short, a dream come true.

The significance is not lost on him. Says he: "It's a new door that's been opened for me . . . a step out to a new world."

JOHN DAHL (left) with his stars, Cesar and James Franco

OPENS TOMORROW
MTRCB RATING G
ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED
Richard Gere
Jennifer Lopez
Susan Sarandon
A new comedy about following your own lead.
Shall we Dance?
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures


CHEER FOR THE UNDERDOG in RAISING STRIPES
This year's feel good movie from Warner Bros.
Racing Stripes features the voices of Mandy Moore and Dustin Hoffman. The film stars Hayden Panettiere.

"When a baby zebra is accidentally abandoned by a traveling circus, a kindly farmer named Nolan Walsh *(Bruce Greenwood)* rescues the trembling foal and takes it home to be raised by his animal-mad daughter, Channing *(Hayden Panettiere)*. Young Stripes *(with the voice of Frankie Muniz of "Malcolm in the Middle")* grows up believing that like the Kentucky thoroughbreds on the other side of the fence, he is a born racehorse.

After a few humiliating matchups with his far faster equine counterparts, Stripes vows to devote his life to training for the "Kentucky Championship Open," and - to everyone's astonishment - the little zebra winds up in the winner's circle. This fun film manages to combine an endearingly dinky quality with a hefty dose of directorial ambition. While children will be thrilled to the spectacle of animals that talk, their parents will imagine the nightmare of directing a feature-length film with mainly nonhuman actors.

The live animals speak through computer-animated mouths. Its a great improvement since "Babe" and you have to respect the craftsmanship behind this film done by the same FX team that gave you "Val Helsing" and "The Mummy."

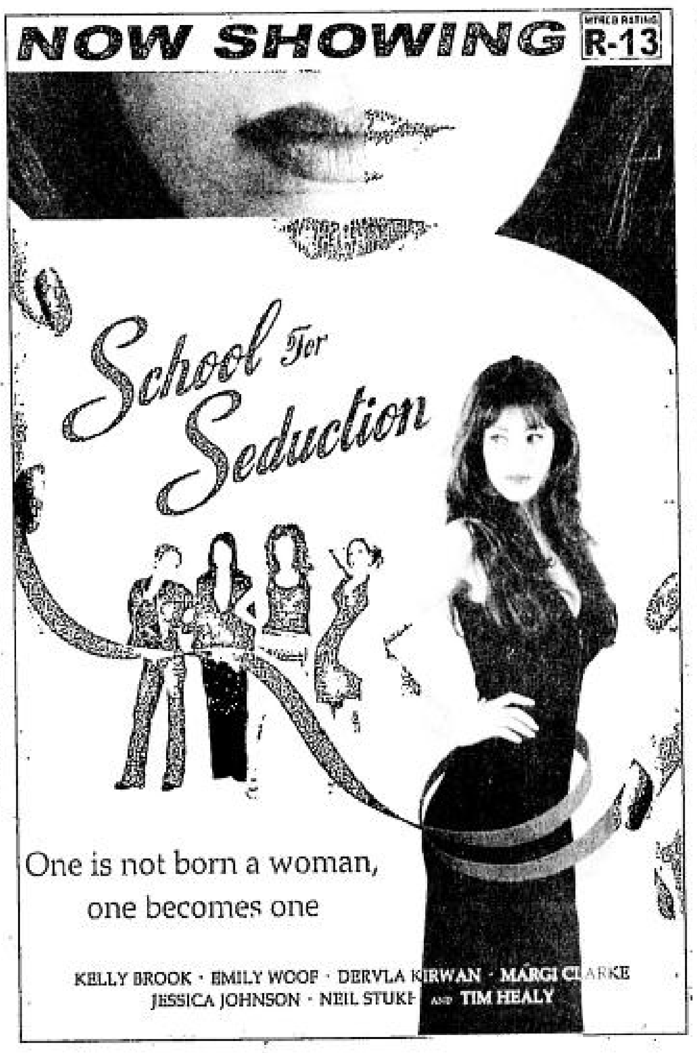
The vocal talent is top-notch: Dustin Hoffman, as a gruff Shetland pony named Tucker, is so precise in his delineation of the character that by the end of the film, the animal has come to resemble the bewigged Hoffman in "I love Huckabees."

Other celebrity beasties include Mandy Moore as a sexy filly, Whoopi Goldberg as a levelheaded goat and Joe Pantoliano as Goose, a big-city pelican on the run from the mob. Mr. Pantoliano's frenetic dialogue is laced with "Sopranos" and "Godfather" references that are at once too sophisticated to amuse youngsters and too pointless to entertain their parents, but the gangling bird's broad physical comedy will hit its mark with both.

Steve Harvey and David Spade, as two scatologically inclined flies named Buzz and Scuzz ...they are hilarious. [Steve Rhodes, NEW YORK TIMES]•

ADVT

PG-13
2ND WEEK!
AMERICA'S #1 IS ALSO MANILA'S #1!
Robert De Niro
Ben Stiller
Dustin Hoffman
Barbra Streisand
Blythe Danner
Teri Polo
Meet the Fockers
Misery loves family.
Spyglass Entertainment Corporation
www.meetthefockers.com
DreamWorks Pictures

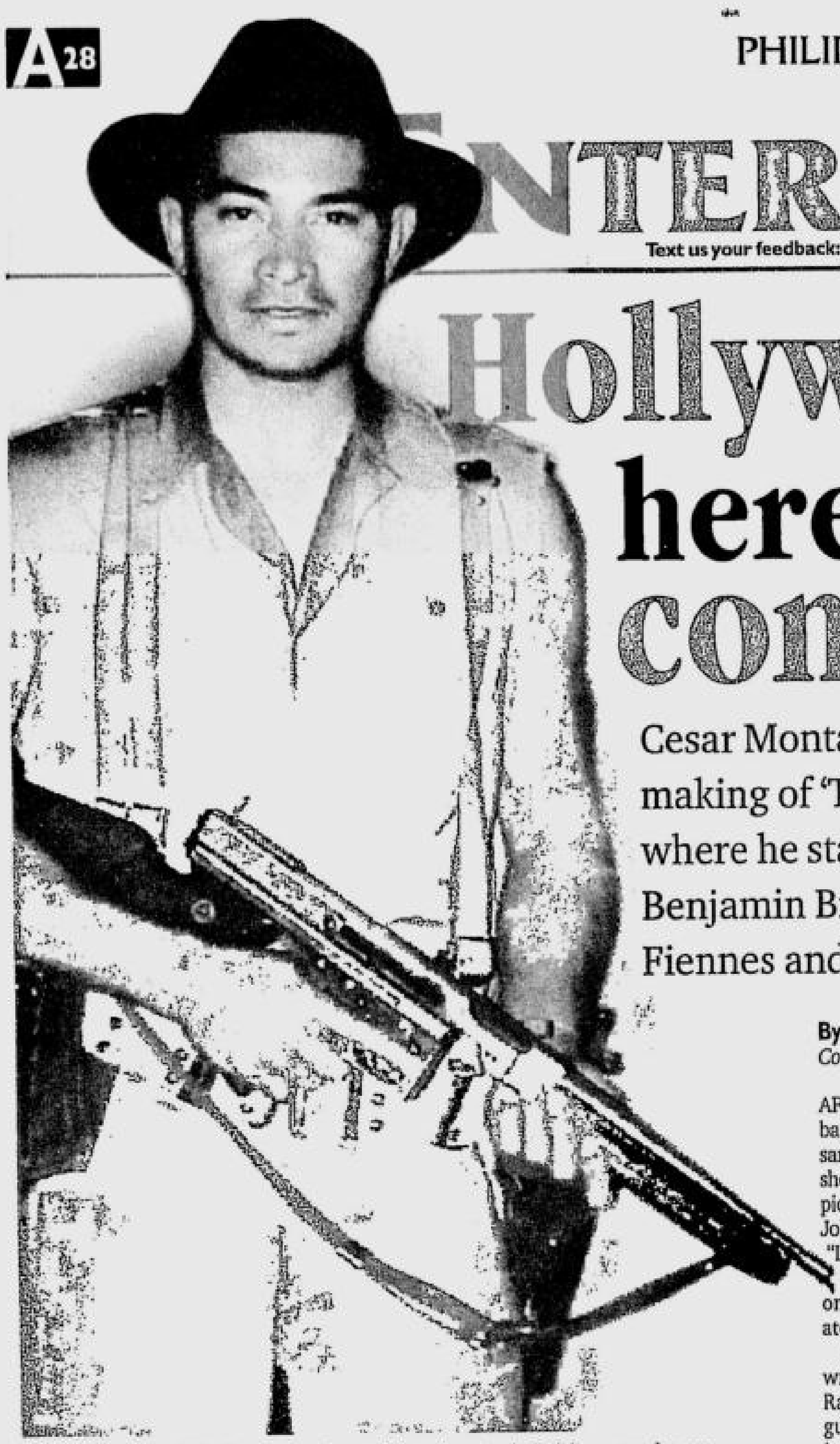

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING R-13
School for Seduction
One is not born a woman, one becomes one
KELLY BROOK · EMILY WOOF · DERVLA KIRWAN · MARGI CLARKE
JESSICA JOHNSON · NEIL STUKE AND TIM HEALY

Where you find the best.
JOB Market
Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

MTRCB RATING R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP
OPENS TOMORROW
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "AMÉLIE"
When she was a young girl, Mathilde met Manech, the son of the local lighthouse keeper. As time passed, the two became inseparable lovers.
Though torn apart by war, Manech can feel Mathilde's heartbeat in his palm... and each beat brings her closer to him.
AUDREY TAUTOU
A FILM BY JEAN-PIERRE JEUNET
A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT

ENTERTAINMENT

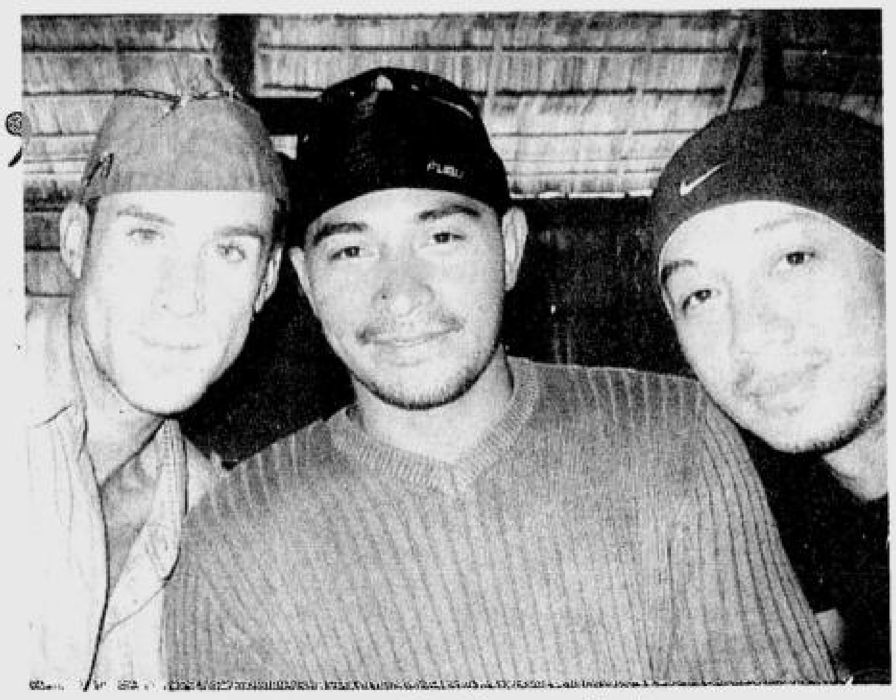
E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Editor **Louie C. Camino**
Assistant Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**
Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)



MY GUN, MY WIFE: Cesar says the training director in Brisbane made sure everyone in the cast of "The Great Raid" understood this.

Hollywood, here he comes!

Cesar Montano on the making of 'The Great Raid,' where he stars with Benjamin Bratt, Joseph Fiennes and James Franco



RP'S BUBOY, with Joseph Fiennes and fellow Pinoy actor Elmo Joson

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

AFTER the success of his "Panaghoy sa Suba," which he directed and starred in, Cesar Montano is looking forward to the showing in Manila of his first Hollywood picture, "The Great Raid," directed by John Dahl ("Joy Ride," "Faithful Man," "Last Seduction").

A special invitational preview is set on Monday, Feb. 7, at the Greenbelt Theater.

Based on the book "Ghost Soldiers," written by Hampton Sides, "The Great Raid" chronicles the bravery of Filipino guerrillas who saved American soldiers in a crucial rescue mission which actually happened in Nueva Ecija during World War II. Montano plays the role of Captain Juan Pajota, a brave soldier from that province.

The film sees Montano pitting acting prowess with Benjamin Bratt, Joseph Fiennes and James Franco, among others.

Montano says it took all of five months to shoot "The Great Raid" with preliminary training done in Brisbane, Australia, where he underwent his toughest screen role preparation.

Marilou Abaya fan

They were holed up in a mountain training camp for two weeks where they simulated actual life inside the war-time guerrilla lair, he recounts. The training reminded him of what he had to go through for the dangerous underwater scenes in Marilou Diaz-Abaya's "Muro-Ami," he says.

By a strange coincidence, it was Montano's role as sea diver in the Abaya film that clinched for him the part in "The Great Raid."

For the first audition, he was asked to deliver the lines of Captain Pajota in English and the result—called the slide—was sent to the director in Brisbane. Then he was asked to fly to Brisbane for another audition with the director. By this time, it was almost a done deal.

John Dahl earlier saw "Muro-Ami," and was impressed not just with Montano's performance but with the entire movie. Montano says the Hollywood director thus became an instant

HOLLYWOOD/ A27

8 KEYS TO YOUR DIFFERENT INTERESTS

Only from PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

COMIC WRINGER: TV's Kumar family consists of the main host (seated), his parents and his ditzy grandmother.

Ethnic twist gives 'Kumars' show its idiosyncratic appeal

VIEWFINDER
Nestor U. Torre

THERE are all sorts of talk shows on television, but "The Kumars at No. 42" on Star World is truly one of a kind. For one thing, it isn't purely a talk show, since its family of hosts, the Kumars, is played by actors.

However, it is technically a talk show, because the Kumars do interview real celebrity guests, who just love having their legs pulled by the show's madcap hosts.

Another unique element of the show is the fact that the Kumars are characterized as an Indian family that's put down roots in London. The ethnic twist gives the show its idiosyncratic charm, and also makes it particularly appealing to minority TV audiences, while the program's celebrity guest list attracts mainstream televiewers.

The Kumar family is made up of the main host, his parents, and his ditzy grandmother. While they're all delightfully droll, its Grandma who gets the most laughs with her feistily funny ways. She may be the oldest member of the family, but she hasn't lost her spice and spunk, that's for sure.

While viewers sense that the program is partly scripted, and some of its punchlines aren't all that spontaneous, it's still a fun-filled viewing experience, not the least of whose treats is the guilty pleasure of seeing the Kumars' celebrity guests blushing fiercely as the family puts them through the comic wringer.

So, why not give "The Kumars at No. 42" a try? You, too, could be quite taken by its quirky humor.

The 'date doctor'

IN HIS new film, "Hitch," **Will Smith** opts for a charming change of pace and plays a New York City "date doctor" who helps many men woo the women of their dreams.

WILL SMITH in "Hitch": "She wants the real you . . . but not all at once!"

But he finally meets his match while coaching a meek accountant who's smitten with a glamorous celebrity (**Amber Vallette**). It turns out that the celebrity is being followed by a gossip columnist (**Eva Mendes**), and Smith's character, who's the ultimate professional bach-

ETHNIC/ A26

WatchGuard Firebox X Series
Firebox® X —designed to be the world's first fully upgradeable, integrated security appliance that actually expands to the growing security needs of small- to mid-sized enterprises.
INTEGRATED COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC.
Tel. 727-3801 Web: www.ics.com.ph

TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 1, 2005
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BUSINESS
E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inq7money.net
Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma
Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

BUMILI NG PETRON ULTRON O REV-X AT I-TEXT
PETRON
6B23888A/
Al Dy/
1 Dalia St.
Cubao, Q.C.
Promo Period runs from November 15, 2004 to May 15, 2005. See posters and flyers for details.
PETRON

T-bill rates decline across the board

By Michelle V. Remo

TREASURY bill rates fell across the board yesterday as the liquidity of the local capital market was boosted by the strengthening of the peso, which neared the 54-to-a-dollar level last week.

The new rates for the short-term government securities were the lowest since February 2004, indicating a high level of confidence by banks in the government's fiscal capabilities despite its lingering budget problem.

The bellwether 91-day treasury bill rate, which is used by banks in pricing their loans, declined by 59.3 basis points to only 6.847 percent. (100 basis points is equivalent to one percentage point.) It was the first time in months that the rate of the three-month debt paper was at the 6-percent level.

The rates for the 182- and 364-day government securities also fell to 7.845 percent and 8.788 percent, respectively. The new rate for the six-month bills was 84 basis points lower than the previous, while the latest rate for the one-year debt note was lower by 99.4 basis points.

Banks swamped yesterday's auction, triggering oversubscriptions in all maturities.

Tenders for the 91-day bills reached P12.1 billion compared with the government's offering of only P4.5 billion. Bids for the 182- and 364-day paper reached P11.55 billion and P16.29 billion, respectively. The government was scheduled to borrow only P4 billion and P3.5 billion, respectively, through the six-month and one-year debt notes.

The Treasury's auction committee accepted P12 billion worth of bids for all tenors, raising in full its scheduled borrowing for the week.

Despite the huge appetite of the domestic credit market for treasury bills, National Treasurer Nina Lasala said the government was not poised to open a tap facility for the short-term government securities. She said the tap facility would only be opened for excess demand for treasury bonds.

A tap facility is where investors in government securities whose bids were rejected could still avail themselves of the debt paper over the counter, although at a lower interest rate.

Lasala said in a press briefing after the auction that the warm reception by the market of the government's short-term securities was made possible by the high level of liquidity among banks. She said their liquidity was boosted by the earnings they generated from foreign exchange trading, which saw the peso post an intraday high of 55.03 to the dollar last Friday.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said the strong showing of the peso last week indicated that the local currency could even recover back to the 53-to-a-dollar level.

Lasala said the Treasury expected the decline in treasury bill rates, saying banks were seen to still choose virtually risk-free government securities as their best investment option. But the auction results were actually better than what the Treasury expected because Lasala said her office was only projecting that the rates would decline by about 50 or 60 basis points this week.

Economy still fragile, says BSP chief

THE PESO and local stocks may have strengthened and soared to new highs last week, but Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the Arroyo administration still had a lot of work to do to place the country's economy in good shape.

"We should not rest on what we have accomplished so far because we still have a long way to go. The government needs to walk the talk," Buenaventura said in a press briefing after being conferred the Management Man of the Year award yesterday by the Management Association of the Philippines.

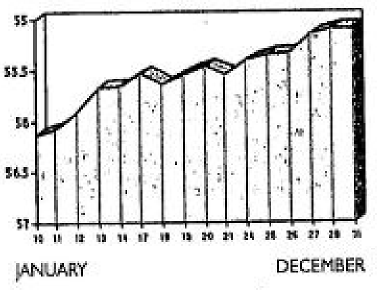
Buenaventura said he was referring to the need to strongly pursue the government's yet-to-be-achieved goals of putting its fiscal house in order, injecting health to the country's ailing power sector, and developing the local capital market.

Last Friday, the peso rallied to a high of 55.03 to a dollar before closing at its 14-month high of 55.09, prompting Malacañang to say the country was now gaining strong investor confidence. Buenaventura said the news was worth rejoicing, but the government was still far from

ECONOMY/B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



₱ 55.09= $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Jan.31, 2005

¥ 103.58= $ 1

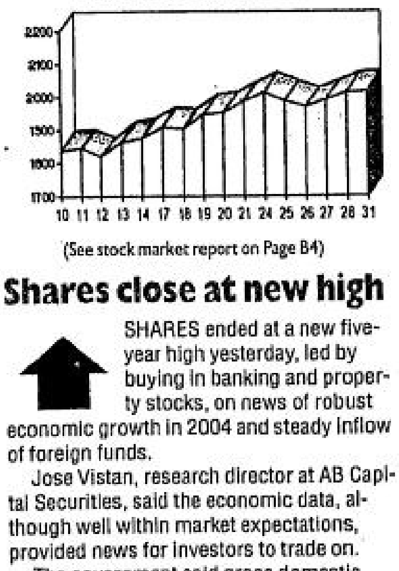
As of 5 p.m., Jan. 31, 2005

GOLD: $ 427.50-428.00

per ounce Hong Kong, Jan. 27, 2005

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Shares close at new high

SHARES ended at a new five-year high yesterday, led by buying in banking and property stocks, on news of robust economic growth in 2004 and steady inflow of foreign funds.

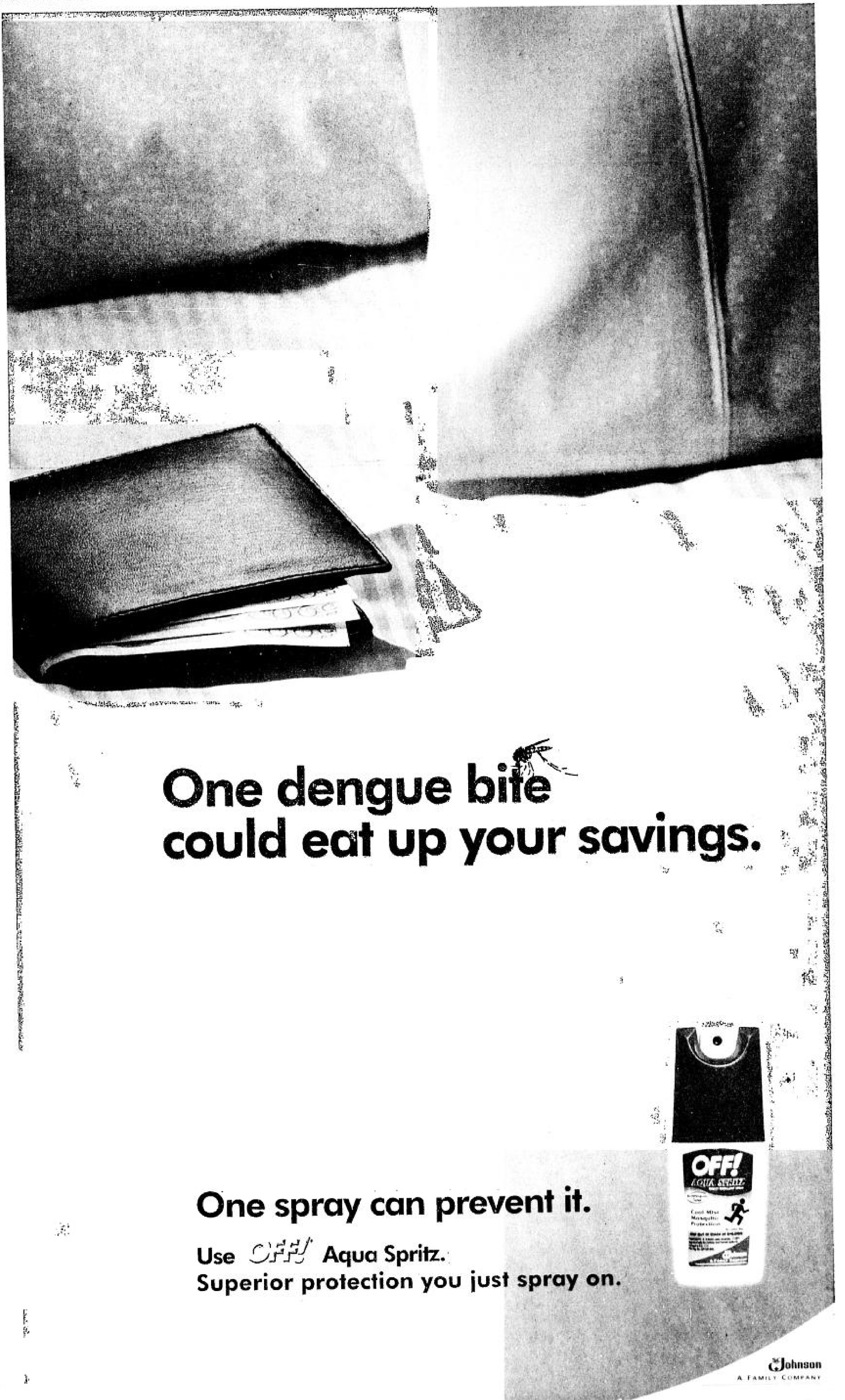
Jose Vistan, research director at AB Capital Securities, said the economic data, although well within market expectations, provided news for investors to trade on.

The government said gross domestic product rose 6.1 percent, better than the 4.9 percent-5.8 percent target for 2004 and close to the market's forecast of 6.2 percent.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index finished 4.95 points, or 0.2 percent, higher at 2019.56, after rising 1.2 percent to 2014.61 Friday.

Volume declined to 4.19 billion shares valued at P1.47 billion from Friday's 5.48 billion shares worth P1.84 billion. Total transactions included a prearranged sale of P1.07 billion worth of Banco de Oro shares held by DBS Bank (Hong Kong).

Sectoral indicators closed mixed. Banking and property sub-indexes rose, while oil, mining and the commercial-industrial subindexes declined. *AP*


One dengue bite
could eat up your savings.
One spray can prevent it.
Use OFF! Aqua Spritz.
Superior protection you just spray on.
OFF! Aqua Spritz
SC Johnson
A FAMILY COMPANY

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Semirara Mining Corp.

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

THERE have not been any jokes for the past two weeks, and although I would prefer to be a straight writer, many readers feel otherwise, so I will tell you a little about my trip to Thailand. We flew on Christmas Day so the airplane was only half filled and we were upgraded. Nevertheless, we were only served plane food. I heard on cable TV that American pilots sometimes got drunk before takeoff and that one had been apprehended highly intoxicated just as he staggered to the cockpit.

So I was quite alarmed when a slurry voice announced, "This is your Captain speaking. Will the passengers please refrain from sticking their arms or legs out of the windows while the plane is in flight. We hope you have a pleasant fright." To make matters worse, the airsick bags had the Lord's prayer printed on them. We tried to get off, but the plane was already in the air. Fortunately, the co-pilot was sober and we landed safely.

Bangkok is very much like Metro Manila, a sprawling metropolis of 10 million people with traffic jams to match. The main difference is that it has 26,000 Buddhist temples, known as WATS. The most beautiful is the King's Palace, which is magnificent. There is no guide to all these temples so I am compiling a What's WAT in Bangkok.

We stayed in a huge 38-storey hotel. It was so big that if you called the reception desk, it was charged as a long-distance call. Security was so tight that Room Service was unlisted. Next day, we were off to Pattaya, not Phuket, as originally intended. It was there that I had foot massage and acupressure, which resulted in a complete cure. My wife watched to make sure that the girls did not massage above my knee. She is such a spoilsport.

We went night shopping in PATPONG market, the red light district. I am happy to announce that the sex industry is thriving and I think that is how BANGKOK got its name. My wife went into a sex shop to buy a vibrator. "I would like to buy that large red one hanging on the wall," she said. "I am sorry," replied the manager, "but that's the fire extinguisher." Going home through immigration, she filled in the card and where it said sex, she wrote "infrequently."

The immigration officer said, "Is that one word or two?"

* * *

Returning to more serious matters, I had intended to write a detailed account of Semirara but because the last day for subscription had passed and most large brokers' research departments have told their clients to subscribe. I will simply comment on what I think is likely to happen to the share price.

In 1997, DMC acquired 94.5 percent of Semirara and initiated important changes that resulted in more efficient mining methods and higher quality coal products. Among its local customers are Mirant, an independent power producer, which is planning an IPO later this year. Another customer is Apo Cement, a subsidiary of Cemex, and the world's third largest cement company. Semirara accounts for 92 percent of the Philippines coal production and 23 percent of domestic consumption.

Production capacity has been soaring and sales volume has risen from 1.8 million tons in 2003 to 2.6 million tons in 2004. For 2005, it is expected to rise to 3.4 million tons and for 2006 to 4.1 million tons. There is tremendous demand for energy resources and coal sells at a 40-percent discount to oil and a 50-percent discount to gas. With demand from fertilizer companies, domestic sales are expected to increase from 23 percent in 2004 to 43 percent in 2006.

Revenue has increased from P1.2 billion in 2001 to P2 billion in 2003, P5 billion in 2004, and P8 billion in 2005. For next year, it is expected to be slightly higher even if coal prices decline. Coal prices follow oil prices qualitatively rather than quantitatively, but I feel that oil prices are going to hold between $40 to $50 a barrel and not return to the original $22-$28, originally set by Opec. Indeed, Opec said recently that if oil prices fall below $40 a barrel, they would consider cutting back production. If you take into account inflation, plus the continued fall in the value of the dollar, oil prices should be in the range of $40-$50. Therefore, I feel that coal prices will remain buoyant.

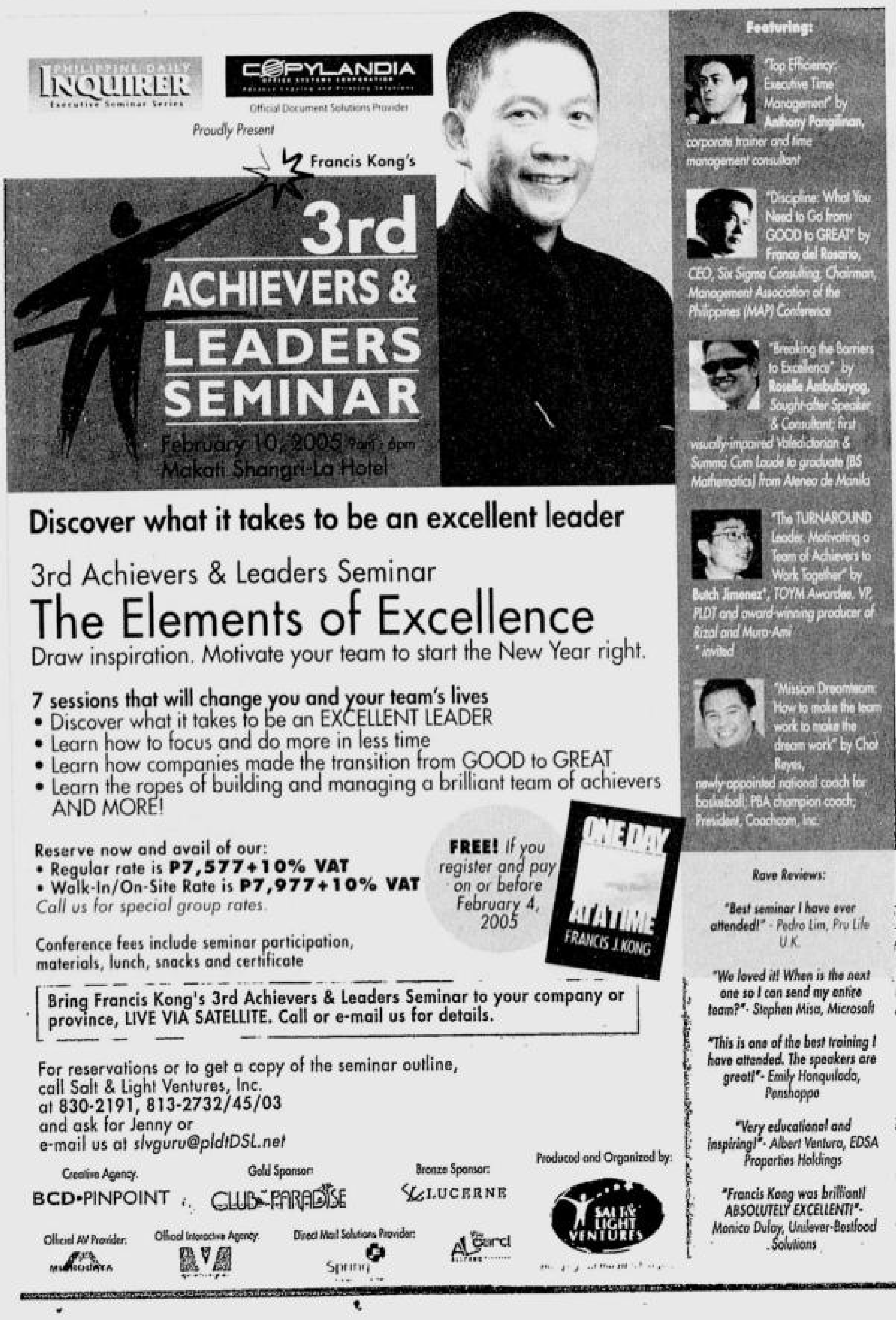
With Japan consuming 25 percent of all coal production and agreeing to a 67-percent hike by China without demur, coal prices should break away from their former cyclical pattern. China is trying to slow down to 8-percent annual growth, but in the last quarter of 2004, its growth accelerated to 9.5 percent. As a result, China is voraciously consuming vast quantities of all commodities. The huge increase in the price of copper is the reason that Atlas is in talks to reopen its copper mine in Cebu. For the same reason, foreign companies want to tap into our large deposits of gold, nickel, copper and chrome. The mining sector looks promising and Semirara is part of it.

Semirara is increasing the number of shares in issue, from 250 million to 300 million, and DMC is selling part of its stake so that the float will be increased from 5.5 percent to 31 percent, 93 million shares were offered to overseas investors, constituting the bulk of the offer. After the offer, DMC would own 64 percent, free float 31 percent, and others 5 percent. At least, that was what was supposed to happen. The price range was narrowed to P30-P36 but the demand for shares from China and Hong Kong was so great that the company issued a further 11 million shares, all at the top of the range.

So the situation is that overseas investors received over 100 million shares, while the local market got only 15 million. The overseas allocation was heavily oversubscribed so that there is pent-up demand. As the Chinese are famous for gambling in the stock market, we can expect to see the shares open at a 10 percent premium or more, and rise further in hectic trading as soon as dealings start on Friday. After the following Monday, there may be a lull because the Chinese New Year commences on Feb. 8, but as soon as it is over, trading will again increase.

At P36, the shares are on a 2005 P/E of 6, which is much too low. With one exception, P/E ratios on coal mining shares range from 8 to 18. I believe that the shares are cheap and should be bought at the opening. This stock possesses both liquidity and volatility, and is therefore destined to become one of the most heavily traded stocks in our market. It will add considerable volume to our market, and because of its size, it will also attract buyers from the United States, Europe, Australia, and the rest of Asia. We need IPOs of this size and caliber in order to get foreign investors to take a greater interest in our market. This should be a great trading stock with a price target of at least P50. *mrbearbull@hotmail.com*

Canon
4-in-1
• Printer
• Copier
• Scanner
• Fax
18 cpm
IR-1210
• Digital Copier & Printer
12 cpm
Fax B822
• Plain Paper Bubble Jet Fax with Voice Recognition Dialing
NEW
3-in-1
• Printer
• Copier
• Scanner
18 cpm
IR-1600
• Digital Multi-Function Network Copier & Printer
16 cpm
IR-1510
• Digital Laser quality Copier & Printer
15 cpm
• Laser Printer
• Colour Scanner
• Digital Copier
12 cpm
• SUPERIOR COPY QUALITY
• BETTER PRICE
• BETTER SERVICE
AUTHORIZED DEALERS
www.elitemachinesinc.com
Elite
EURO-ASIA
G/F, LRDC Building, 77 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. Makati City



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Executive Seminar Series
COPYLANDIA
Official Document Solutions Provider
Proudly Present
Francis Kong's
3rd ACHIEVERS & LEADERS SEMINAR
February 10, 2005 9am - 6pm
Makati Shangri-La Hotel

Featuring:
"Top Efficiency: Executive Time Management" by Anthony Pangilinan, corporate trainer and time management consultant
"Discipline: What You Need to Go from GOOD to GREAT" by Franco del Rosario, CEO, Six Sigma Consulting, Chairman, Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) Conference
"Breaking the Barriers to Excellence" by Roselle Ambubuyog, Sought-after Speaker & Consultant; first visually-impaired Valedictorian & Summa Cum Laude to graduate (BS Mathematics) from Ateneo de Manila
"The TURNAROUND Leader. Motivating a Team of Achievers to Work Together" by Butch Jimenez*, TOYM Awardee, VP, PLDT and award-winning producer of Rizal and Muro-Ami
*invited
"Mission Dreamteam: How to make the team work to make the dream work" by Chot Reyes, newly-appointed national coach for basketball, PBA champion coach; President, Coachcom, Inc.

Discover what it takes to be an excellent leader
3rd Achievers & Leaders Seminar
The Elements of Excellence
Draw inspiration. Motivate your team to start the New Year right.

7 sessions that will change you and your team's lives
• Discover what it takes to be an EXCELLENT LEADER
• Learn how to focus and do more in less time
• Learn how companies made the transition from GOOD to GREAT
• Learn the ropes of building and managing a brilliant team of achievers
AND MORE!

Reserve now and avail of our:
• Regular rate is P7,577+10% VAT
• Walk-In/On-Site Rate is P7,977+10% VAT
Call us for special group rates.

FREE! If you register and pay on or before February 4, 2005
ONE DAY AT A TIME
FRANCIS J. KONG

Conference fees include seminar participation, materials, lunch, snacks and certificate

Bring Francis Kong's 3rd Achievers & Leaders Seminar to your company or province, LIVE VIA SATELLITE. Call or e-mail us for details.

For reservations or to get a copy of the seminar outline, call Salt & Light Ventures, Inc. at 830-2191, 813-2732/45/03 and ask for Jenny or e-mail us at slvguru@pldtDSL.net

Rave Reviews:
"Best seminar I have ever attended!" - Pedro Lim, Pru Life U.K.
"We loved it! When is the next one so I can send my entire team?" - Stephen Misa, Microsoft
"This is one of the best training I have attended. The speakers are great!" - Emily Honquilada, Penshoppe
"Very educational and inspiring!" - Albert Ventura, EDSA Properties Holdings
"Francis Kong was brilliant! ABSOLUTELY EXCELLENT!" - Monica Dulay, Unilever-Bestfood Solutions

Creative Agency: BCD-PINPOINT
Gold Sponsor: CLUB PARADISE
Bronze Sponsor: LUCERNE
Produced and Organized by: SALT & LIGHT VENTURES
Official AV Provider:
Official Interactive Agency:
Direct Mail Solutions Provider: Spring

Economy

From page B1

achieving a sufficiently strong economy.

On the Arroyo administration's medium-term fiscal target of wiping out its huge budget deficit, the BSP chief said its plans could be made more aggressive. He suggested accelerating the achievement of a zero deficit from the original target of 2010. Efforts to push for the legislation of the executive's revenue-raising measures should also be strengthened further.

He noted that so far, Congress has only passed one "quantifiable" bill among the several revenue-raising proposals of the Arroyo administration, which was the "sin" taxes law that raised the excise tax on cigarettes and alcohol. This is estimated to contribute P15 billion in additional revenue a year for the cash-starved government.

He said the revenue impact of the lateral attrition bill, which imposes a reward-and-penalty system for revenue collectors based on their performance, could not be measured.

Buenaventura, who will be leaving his post by July this year, also stressed that the government still had a lot of work to do in the area of privatizing the assets of National Power Corp. So far, only its Masinloc coal-fired power plant has been privatized among its major assets. *Michelle V. Remo*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of January 31, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.1	5.2	4.9	4.9	8,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31	31.5	30.5	31	575,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	58	58.5	57	58.5	1,045,100
China Banking Corp.	570	585	570	570	2,510
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	46	46.5	46	46.5	16,900
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	3,580,000
International Exch. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.5	18.5	82,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	32	33.5	31.5	32.5	3,615,600
Philippine National Bank	28.5	28.5	28	28	101,600
Phil. Savings Bank	30.5	31	30.5	31	1,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	15	15	15	15	1,000
Security Bank Corp.	30.5	30.5	30	30	61,600
Union Bank of the Phil.	29.5	30	29.5	29.5	21,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1	1	1	1	120,000
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	2.04	2.04	2	2	97,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	129	129	129	129	110
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1730	1730	1730	1730	220
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	18.5	18.5	18.25	18.25	41,600
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.78	1.82	1.74	1.74	11,045,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	940	940	910	925	36,330
Ipeople Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.3	4.5	177,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	5,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.037	4,000,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.4	570,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	4	4	3.9	3.9	7,825,000
Transpacific Broadcast	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	60,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1430	1435	1425	1425	106,560
Ivantage Corp.	0.7	0.71	0.69	0.7	5,410,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	54,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	17.25	17.75	17.25	17.75	162,800
Manila Electric Co. B	27.5	27.5	26.5	26.5	721,600
Petron Corp.	4	4.15	4	4	4,777,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.7	3,232,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.7	1.82	1.7	1.76	3,329,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.1	7.2	7.1	7.1	1,163,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	19,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.46	0.46	2,580,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.35	4.45	4	4.05	6,798,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.34	1.34	100,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	25,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	106,800
Jollibee Foods Corp.	27	27.5	26.5	27	598,700
RFM Corp.	0.84	0.84	0.76	0.78	620,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	110,000
San Miguel Corp. A	58	58	57.5	58	62,200
San Miguel Corp. B	77.5	78	77.5	78	109,700
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.29	0.27	0.28	2,700,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.009	0.0095	0.0085	0.0085	87,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	5,000,000
Ayala Corp.	7.8	8	7.8	7.9	10,122,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.78	0.81	0.72	0.72	2,330,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.8	3.8	3.75	3.8	394,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.032	0.033	0.031	0.032	34,800,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.92	1.94	1.92	1.92	592,000
APC Group Inc.	0.36	0.45	0.35	0.45	40,050,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.01	0.01	0.0095	0.0095	242,000,000
Aries Prime Res. Inc.	0.9	0.91	0.9	0.9	55,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.74	2.55	1.74	2.55	26,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.38	1.5	1.38	1.42	166,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	22	22	21.25	21.25	10,400
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.18	0.17	0.18	3,650,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.14	1.16	1.04	1.08	40,326,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.25	0.25	10,650,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.25	0.25	2,900,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.45	0.49	0.4	0.41	21,500,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	5.5	5.7	5.5	5.5	13,227,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.038	0.038	0.036	0.037	11,300,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.2	1.22	1.2	1.2	720,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	9.1	9.1	8.7	9	2,473,000
F&J Princ e Holdings Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	10,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	39.5	42	39.5	41.5	2,101,800
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	100,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.085	0.105	0.085	0.095	60,000,000
House Of Investments Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.36	1.38	2,195,000
Ionics Inc.	1.68	1.68	1.58	1.58	155,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.25	3.3	3.25	3.25	180,000
Macroasia Corp.	2.55	2.55	2.44	2.44	284,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	900,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.02	0.02	0.019	0.02	1,600,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.44	1.52	1.44	1.5	16,732,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.51	0.56	0.51	0.52	112,630,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.22	1.24	1.22	1.24	50,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	300,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	300,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.87	0.93	0.5	0.5	480,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.46	0.48	0.46	0.48	400,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	5,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	600,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.18	0.195	0.18	0.195	30,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.245	0.245	0.235	0.235	760,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	10,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	200,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.08	0.0825	0.08	0.08	5,100,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.69	0.71	0.68	0.69	11,380,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.14	1.08	1.08	1,930,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	60,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	1,180,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-Cbn Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	18.25	18.5	18.25	18.25	168,300
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.9	9.1	8.9	9.1	17,419,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.8	2.1	1.8	2.1	28,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.73	0.73	0.71	0.71	190,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.32	0.34	0.31	0.32	11,880,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.15	0.16	0.15	0.155	4,700,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.12	0.16	0.12	0.16	830,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.41	0.43	0.41	0.42	13,500,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.42	1.56	1.42	1.54	19,032,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	1,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.22	0.235	0.22	0.22	6,280,000
City & Land Developers	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	4,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	470,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.18	0.23	0.18	0.2	2,190,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.1	0.12	0.1	0.12	2,900,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	293,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.21	0.22	0.21	0.21	1,060,000
SM Development Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.48	1.5	306,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.6	8.7	8.6	8.6	8,500,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.95	0.95	0.84	0.95	290,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.06	1.06	0.98	1.04	475,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	119,600,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	7.9	8.2	7.7	7.8	1,399,000
Benguet Corp. A	10.5	10.5	8.7	9	191,100
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	4.15	4.15	3.7	4.1	252,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.47	0.47	0.42	0.43	24,140,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.52	0.52	0.47	0.48	61,220,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.025	0.025	0.023	0.023	455,700,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.035	0.035	0.032	0.032	752,500,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.0055	0.0055	1,114,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.34	1.34	1.18	1.22	15,407,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.52	25,879,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.47	0.5	0.39	0.4	2,830,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.014	94,800,000
Interport Res.	0.0065	0.0065	6	0.006	20,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0075	0.0075	0.0065	0.0065	36,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0085	0.0085	0.0075	0.0075	283,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0095	0.0095	0.0085	0.0085	50,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.55	0.55	0.49	0.5	1,360,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.57	0.57	0.54	0.54	580,000
Pacifica	0.014	0.014	0.012	0.012	34,800,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.05	3.2	3	3	61,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.14	0.17	0.13	0.145	131,220,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.44	0.46	0.43	0.43	2,580,000

DISCLOSURES

THE BOARD of **Export and Industry Bank** approved the rescheduling of the Bank's annual stockholders' meeting in April to September 2005.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Union Bank of the Philippines** approved the declaration of cash dividend of P1.15 per share. Record and payment dates shall be announced upon receipt of confirmation by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

* * *

BANCO de Oro disclosed the promotion of Ador A. Abrogena and Evelyn Villanueva to the rank of executive vice president subject to monetary board confirmation. ***Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

January 31, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.766694779	1.000000	55.1120
Japan	Yen	0.007419	0.009676	0.5333
United Kingdom	Pound	1.447673	1.888200	104.0625
Hongkong	Dollar	0.098306	0.128220	7.0665
Switzerland	Franc	0.646564	0.843313	46.4767
Canada	Dollar	0.618751	0.807037	44.4774
Singapore	Dollar	0.46907	0.611808	33.7180
Australia	Dollar	0.593738	0.774413	42.6794
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.033781	2.652661	146.1935
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.204447	0.266660	14.6962
Brunei	Dollar	0.467639	0.609942	33.6151
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000084	0.000109	0.0060
Thailand	Baht	0.019929	0.025994	1.4326
UAE	Dirham	0.208772	0.272301	15.0071
Euro	Euro	1	1.304300	71.8826
Argentina	Peso	0.262342	0.342173	18.8578
Brazil	REAL	0.289702	0.377858	20.8245
Denmark	Kroner	0.134441	0.175352	9.6640
India	Rupee	0.017565	0.022910	1.2626
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.201789	0.263193	14.5051
Mexico	New Peso	0.068172	0.088917	4.9004
New Zealand	Dollar	0.546273	0.712504	39.2675
South Africa	Rand	0.128694	0.167856	9.2509
Korea	Won	0.00075	0.000978	0.0539
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024201	0.031566	1.7397

In '05, MBC sees slower growth for RP

Ronnel W. Domingo

ABOUT two out of five business executives believe that the country's economy will grow at a lower rate this year than in 2004, according to a poll conducted by the Makati Business Club.

The biannual Executive Outlook Survey is conducted every January and July, with the latest having 70 respondents or about 9.5 percent of MBC's membership.

Asked between Jan. 6 and Jan. 28, 38.5 percent of the respondents said the economy would slow down this year despite the strong economic growth of 6.1 percent in 2004.

The growth rate of the amount of all products made and services rendered within the country in 2003 was pegged at 4.7 percent.

The survey also showed that more than a third of respondents (35.7 percent) thought the economy's growth in 2005 would be the same as that of last year's while 23 percent expected a higher growth rate.

"The cautiousness seems to be partly anchored on the forecast for inflation and interest rates," the MBC said in a statement.

Of the executives polled, 73 percent said they expected inflation this year to exceed last year's 5.5 percent which, in turn, went up from 3 percent in 2003.

Also, three out of five respondents said they expected the peso to depreciate by 5.6 percent within the year despite its appreciation to as high as P55.09 to the dollar this month.

"While prospects for investments and trade remain positive in 2005, the mood is not as bullish as in 2004," the MBC said.

ATO books ₱2.5B in '04 net income

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE AIR Transportation Office has recorded a net income of about P2.5 billion in 2004 and is targeting a 15-percent increase in profits this year, according to the agency head.

ATO chief Nilo Jatico credited a robust tourism industry for the agency's improved collection last year. He said there were more chartered flights in 2004 compared to previous years.

"Our target last year was P2.2 billion, but we made around P2.5 billion due to increase in flights," Jatico said. "This is the first time we exceeded our target so we are very cautious in making forecasts this year."

The ATO chief said his office was still evaluating the budget department order to increase fees and charges by an average of 20 percent. The air transport office is one of the biggest earner among government agencies contributing collections to national coffers.

"We are still studying which areas will be increased," he said. "If we increase all fees, it might cause the demise of the aviation industry."

Jatico said the agency had asked the Department of Transportation and Communication to approve its request to hike fees but had not received the go-ahead.

He said the ATO had not raised its fees since 2001, when a string of misfortunes befell the aviation industry and strained travel.

"We would just like some adjustment, at most it would be 20 percent," Jatico earlier said. "If we increase fees and charges by 20 percent, then our revenue would also go up between P400 and P500 million each year."

He knew any increase in aviation fees would be passed on by airlines to travelers.

The ATO collects about P2 billion each year from air navigational fees slapped on all carriers that pass through the country's air space.

It also collects license fees on pilots and other crew.

The agency also charges landing and takeoff fees on the ports it operates. These are airports in the provinces that are not managed by agencies like the Manila International Airport Authority, the Clark Airport Corp., the Subic Airport, and the Mactan Airport.

Alfonso Cusi, MIAA general manager, had said the agency was still studying whether it would need to charge additional fees to cover the cost of beefing up airport security.

Before Cusi was appointed to head the MIAA, the agency was studying a plan to charge an additional $5 per passenger traveling overseas to pay for the increase cost of ensuring tighter security.

A simple airport X-ray machine costs about $3 million each.

The Ninoy Aquino International Airport currently collects P550 or $10 as terminal fee.

Transport Secretary Leandro Mendoza said the increases on aviation fees were still being evaluated by the department.

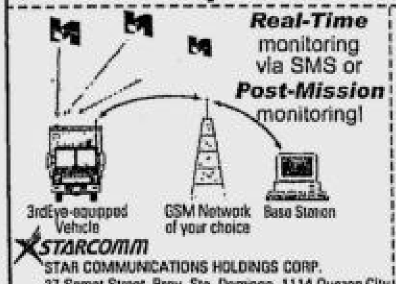
He said the ATO's plan to hike fees could be reasonable since it had not adjusted the charges for quite a long time.

But Mendoza said this would have to go through a series of public hearings.

Jatico said a fee hike was a sensitive issue with the aviation industry considering that it had just started to recover.

The International Air Transportation Association had been opposing additional airport fees on security.

IATA director general Giovanni Bisignani said that government should be responsible for the added cost of security and not the airlines.



GPS REQUIRED? CALL US!
MONITORING YOUR VEHICLES
INCREASES YOUR EFFICIENCY
Get the 3rdEye Vehicle Monitoring System!

STARCOMM
STAR COMMUNICATIONS HOLDINGS CORP.
37 Samat Street, Brgy. Sto. Domingo, 1114 Quezon City
Tel. +63 (2) 416 0936 to 0938; Fax. +63 (2) 416 0935
http://www.starcomm.com.ph

I'd like to know more about the 3rdEye!
☐ Please send brochures
☐ Please send a representative
Name
Company
Address
Telephone

Please fax to +63 (2) 416 0935
or e-mail us at:
sales@starcomm.com.ph

PSBank
U$Dollar
TIME DEPOSIT

Earn as high as 3.5%

	$1,000 to 9,999	$10,000 to 49,999	$50,000 & up
1 month	2.500%	2.750%	3.000%
2 months	2.750%	3.000%	3.250%
3 months	3.000%	3.250%	3.500%
6 months	3.250%	3.250%	3.500%
12 months	3.250%	3.500%	3.500%

Quoted rates are for individual accounts only and are subject to change without prior notice.
Rates are on per annum basis and subject to 7.5% withholding tax.

Visit any of our 139 PSBank Branches nationwide.
Member of the PDIC. Maximum Deposit Insurance for each Depositor P250,000.00

Fitch affirms Chinabank ratings

HONG KONG/SINGAPORE—Fitch Ratings, an international rating agency, has affirmed the individual and support ratings on the Philippines' China Banking Corp. at 'C/D' and '4', respectively.

As outlined in Fitch's just published report on the bank, CBC's individual rating was based on the bank's high level of capital and adequate profitability, noting that its impaired assets were considerable and its reserves somewhat limited.

As of mid-2004, CBC's non-performing loans, other impaired credits, and foreclosed properties, respectively, stood at 8.9 percent, 3.7 percent, and 5.1 percent of its total assets—which, while substantial, was largely in line with the industry's situation.

In the meantime, CBC's specific loan loss reserves stood at 6.3 percent of assets, while foreclosed asset reserves stood at 0.4 percent. Fitch believes that additional reserves will be required in an amount equal to just over 2 percent of the bank's assets. However, this should in time be covered by earnings (the bank's underlying annual pre-tax profitability is estimated at 1.3 percent of assets). As such, the bank's very substantial capital base (18.5 percent of assets) should remain intact.

CBC's core profitability is significantly better than its peers' due to above-average margins emanating from a focus on higher-yielding SMEs, and in particular, a relatively low-cost deposit base, thanks to the bank's strong franchise among Chinese-Filipino SMEs and individuals. And while fee income is limited, this is offset by the bank's relatively good efficiency.

Established in 1920 by a group of Chinese-Filipino businessmen, CBC is one of the Philippines' oldest banks. It was listed on the country's stock exchange in 1965. As of mid-2004, the bank's assets amounting to P112 billion (2 percent of system-wide assets), rendering it the Philippines' 11th largest local bank. *Reuters*

Have a S M A R T start this 2 0 0 5 ... use the MSI Packaged Software.
PAYROLL
- ensures FAST, COMPLETE & ACCURATE computation of payroll and generation of government reportorial requirements.
Daily Time Recording DTR
- a Time Keeping Software that keeps track employee's attendance, absences, tardiness, UT and OT records.
Personnel Information System PIS
- displays comprehensive 201 Files, and prints pre-defined personnel forms.
FREE DEMO w/in M.M.
OTHER PRODUCTS:
MSI Recruitment System
PROFIT Retail System (Inventory, Sales Manager / Point-of-Sale, Purchase Order)...for inquiry call 734-8858 / 736-6756 / 735-4892
ATTENTION: MSI PAYROLL USERS
Latest version w/ the new PHIC TABLE for PREMIUM CONTRIBUTION for 2005 is now available.
METROSOFT, INC.
PACKAGED SYSTEMS APPLICATION PROVIDER
LG1 Cityland 9 Dela Rosa Condo., 7648 Dela Rosa St., Makati City 1230
Tels.: 892-2798 • 894-1525 • 892-4530 • 892-4536 • 894-1043 • 892-2808
Fax: 892-2795 Email: msi@vasia.com

EDUCATION DAY
IT SOLUTIONS FOR SCHOOLS

FEBRUARY 4, 2005
BALLROOM B AND C,
DUSIT HOTEL,
MAKATI CITY
8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Learn how your school can benefit and save money from this event. Attend our Technology Update Seminars, Education Solution Sets, Consultations Sessions and visit our Exhibit Area.

AGENDA
(Please check the box of the seminar you are attending.
Fill up the registration form below. Register now, seats are limited!)

Track A Ballroom B Education Solution Sets
Learn how your school can save money on certain Licensing Programs and for some software products. learn how these products can be integrated in the school's curriculum.
Who should attend:
School Administrators, Deans, Purchasing Managers

8:00 - 8:30 Registration
8:30 - 9:15 Macromedia Studio MX 2004, The Professional Tool for Designing and Developing Internet Solutions ☐
9:15 - 10.00 Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Indesign for Students to Have Deeper Understanding and Appreciation of Typography ☐
10:00 - 10:30 A.M. Break
10:30 - 11:15 Autodesk in Education, Session I ☐
11:15 - 12:00 Macromedia Breeze Solutions that Provide Rich Web Communication System ☐
12:00 - 1:00 Lunch Break
1:00 - 1:45 Symantec's Threat Prevention Solutions ☐
1:45 - 2:30 Autodesk Education Solution Sets
2:30 - 3:15 Consultation Sessions* ☐
3:15 - 3:45 P.M. Break
3:45 - 4:30 Consultation Sessions* ☐
* One on one sessions with technology specialists or product managers to address inquiries regarding your school's specific requirements. These sessions are for both education solution sets and technology updates seminars

Track B Ballroom C Technology Update
Learn the latest trends in IT and get a brief product overview. Consultation Sessions for specific requirements regarding products presented will be from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Ballroom B.
Who should attend:
School IT Managers, faculty members.

8:00 - 8:30 Registration
8:30 - 9:15 McAfee: Protection You Can Trust ☐
9:15 - 10:00 Use Internet-Based Academic Resources Without Fear with CA's eTrust Solutions ☐
10:00 - 10:30 A.M. Break
10:30 - 11:15 Symantec's Threat Prevention Technology for the Education Enterprise. ☐
11:15 - 12:00 Extending the Life of Educational Technology with Citrix Solutions ☐
12:00 - 1:00 Lunch Break
1:00 - 1:45 Recover Your Data From a Disaster Efficiently and Effectively with CA's BrightStor ARCserve Backup ☐
1:45 - 2:30 Business Objects Reporting Tools for Schools ☐
2:30 - 3:15 IBM - DB2 "DB2 Express: Feature for Feature, the Most Inexpensive Database Today" ☐
3:15 - 3:45 P.M. Break
3:45 - 4:30 Borland New Vision - Software Delivery Optimization and Overall Borland ALM ☐
4:30 - 5:00 Open

Macromedia Breeze Special Education Price for Primary and Secondary Schools
As much as 70% discount.
Learn how you can avail this promo during Educ Day event.
Register NOW!

Registration is Free!
email to paolo.santiago@wsiphil.com.ph
telephone 810 9301 / 812 7666
loc 175 or 144
fax 817 6430

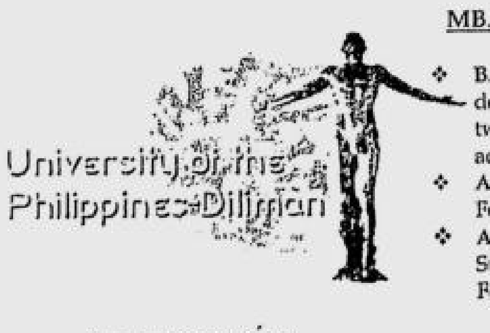
Name
Position
School
Address
Telephone
Email

it's our business to make your business grow
sales@wsiphil.com.ph · 63.2.810.9301 63.2.812.7666
Value Added Distributor
WSi
Wordtext Systems Inc

UP MBA
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

The UP Master of Business Administration (MBA) Program provides a foundation for a career in middle and upper management in business. The program offers a mix of functional disciplines in management with courses in the management of technology and innovation as well as in general management. The program is also designed to allow students to acquire knowledge and skills in specialized management areas through elective courses which comprise a third of total course requirements. Part-time students can complete the program in 2.5 years. Full-time (day) students need 1.5 years.

MBA ADMISSION SY 2005-2006
- BASIC QUALIFICATIONS: Bachelor's degree (any field), work experience, two recommendations, and acceptable admission test scores.
- ADMISSION TEST: Sunday, February 13, 2005.
- APPLICATION PERIOD: Deadline of Submission of Application Form on February 11, 2005.



Scholarships Available
Fifteen scholarships are available for full-time MBA students.

For Inquiries, contact:
Program Director, Master's Program
College of Business Administration
UP Diliman, Quezon City

Oil prices drop as Opec keeps output steady

SINGAPORE—Oil prices in the United States yesterday slid more than 1.6 percent following the weekend decision of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to leave production unchanged for the time being and after Iraq's election went ahead without disruption to key oil exports.

March light crude futures on the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) hit an early low of $46.41 a barrel, down 77 cents, in opening electronic dealings. At 0022 GMT, US crude was down 72 cents at $46.46.

Opec members on Sunday agreed to leave official output limits unchanged at 27 million barrels per day (bpd) despite prices creeping towards $50 last week.

"$50 oil will not play a big role in slowing up growth of the economy," said Opec president Sheikh Ahmad al-Fahd al-Sabah of Kuwait. "Some analysts say even $60 oil will play a small role in affecting growth."

Opec ministers also agreed to officially set aside the group's $22-$28 a barrel target for a reference basket of seven crudes. The group will meet again on March 16 in Isfahan, Iran.

Dealers found some relief from the passing of Iraq's election without any major damage to the country's oil infrastructure.

Oil officials said exports from the southern terminals of Basra and Khor al-Amaya were running normally at 1.7 million bpd on Sunday despite violence across the country as voters went to the polls.

In the north, where exports have been stopped since Dec. 18, sabotage on oil facilities continued, delaying the reopening of the Iraq-Turkey pipeline for another 10 to 15 days, security officials said.

At a meeting in Vienna on Sunday, the 11-nation cartel, which supplies nearly a third of the world's crude oil, decided to keep oil production steady despite increased cold weather demand during the northern winter.

"Prices have strengthened as a result of seasonal market characteristics, including cold winter weather" in the northern hemisphere, the statement said.

According to analyst Raja Wiwan of the Energy Intelligence Research publishing house in London, Opec was just trying to avoid "taking a sort of political responsibility for what's happening in the market," where winter weather and insecurity about hotspots like Iraq is keeping prices high.

Opec doesn't want to create a backlash against it for stubbornly high prices in consumer countries, Wiwan said.

But the analyst said Opec would move fast to cut production if prices fell significantly.

Opec, meanwhile, "temporarily" suspended its target price band of 22-28 dollars a barrel since "market changes ... have rendered the band unrealistic."

Reuters, AFP

TECHNO PARK ROMP
A mother plays with her child in a corner of Taiwan's Neihu Technology Park. The 150-hectare park, a 30-minute bus ride from downtown Taipei, is central to Taiwan's goal of transforming a manufacturing economy to a knowledge-based one. REUTERS

China bent on raising farm income

BEIJING—Agricultural issues will remain a key priority for China in 2005, including raising grain production to beat shortages and ensuring the increase of the income of its 800 million farmers, a top official yesterday said.

The State Council, China's Cabinet, issued a major policy document on rural affairs reiterating that improving the farming industry and raising the income of the country's poorest would remain the government's top domestic task.

"We must implement a long-term policy that provides more, takes less and invigorates the agricultural industry, rural villages and the peasants," said Chen Xiwen, vice director of the Central Leading Group on Finance. "We need a policy that develops both urban and rural areas at the same time but places government work on resolving agricultural issues as top priority."

Last year, the government implemented some $5.44 billion in tax cuts and subsidies for rural dwellers as part of a five-year plan at reducing taxes and fees, Chen said.

"The income of urban residents was 3.23 times bigger than rural incomes; this is to say that it takes the income of 3.23 peasants to equal the income of an urban resident," Chen said.

"As far as increasing rural incomes is concerned, China has 800 million farmers, so to quickly raise their income to the level of urban residents is going to be a very difficult task."

Per capita net income for rural households in 2004 was $354, up 6.8 percent over the previous year. The government would target a 5.0 increase for 2005, he said.

Chen also said China was facing an up to 35 million tons shortage of grain this year, a shortfall that would insure that the nation would continue to be a net importer of grain for the second year running.

AFP

Asia stocks rally as techs surge

SINGAPORE—Asian stocks outside Japan hit a 7-year high on Monday as shares in display makers surged on hopes flat-screen prices will hit bottom soon.

The dollar edged up on relief that Iraq's first multi-party election in about 50 years had passed without a major hitch, with the focus turning to a Federal Reserve meeting and US economic data that will indicate the health of the world's largest economy.

Japan's Nikkei stock index closed 0.6 percent higher at 11,387.59, lifted by a 2.5 percent gain in Canon Inc. after it forecast record earnings for a fifth straight year.

Shares fell 1.2 percent in Toshiba Corp. and 1.8 percent in Sanyo Electric ahead of their earnings.

After the market closed, Toshiba reported a 93 percent fall in quarterly operating profit and lowered its full-year outlook.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia Pacific shares outside Japan had risen more than 0.6 percent by 0620 GMT to its highest since September 1997, led by a 1.8 percent jump in its technology component.

Taiwan technology shares rallied across the board, lifting the benchmark index 1.9 percent and pushing the technology sector index up 2.4 percent.

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. (TSMC), the world's largest contract chip maker, jumped 4 percent.

The gains came after TSMC said on Sunday it had settled a patent and trade secret suit with Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corp. (SMIC) and the Chinese rival would pay it US$175 million over 6 years. Last week, TSMC forecast an industry-wide recovery from the second quarter.

South Korean shares rose 1.2 percent to a nine-month closing high, lifted by a 4.5 percent jump in LG.Philips LCD Co. Ltd., the world's second-largest flat-screen maker.

Analysts widely expect Taiwan's flat-screen makers to report quarterly losses after poor performances by their South Korean peers, but upbeat investors are betting that prices of liquid crystal displays (LCDs) will hit bottom soon.

Shares climbed 0.7 percent in Hong Kong, 0.2 percent in Australia and 0.4 percent in Singapore, where contract chip maker Chartered Semiconductor gained 5.9 percent on optimism its shares had hit bottom after it reported a smaller-than-expected quarterly loss.

Asian stocks stood firm in the face of a drop in US equities on Friday, when the Dow Jones industrial average fell 0.4 percent, and Nasdaq dropped 0.6 percent ahead of the Iraq election and Opec's meeting.

Reuters

Greenspan, et al. guide US destiny behind ornate doors

WASHINGTON—First comes the small talk about vacations or family—usually anything but interest rates or the economy. But when US Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan enters the room, it's time to get to work.

The decisions made by Greenspan and two dozen colleagues gathered around a 27-foot-long mahogany table can touch millions of consumers, businesses and investors.

But their discussions aren't broadcast on television. They are conducted behind closed doors—ornate wooden doors.

At one end of the room is a marble fireplace with a bronze relief of Demeter, Greek goddess of agriculture and a symbol to the Fed of stability and productivity.

At the other is a US map, painted in 1937, depicting the Federal Reserve System.

This is the stately setting for eight scheduled meetings each year of the Federal Open Market Committee, which sets interest rate policy in the United States.

The Fed's first meeting of 2005 begins mid-afternoon this Tuesday and continues Wednesday morning.

"But William Poole, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, warned: "Don't get carried away with the notion of august mystique ... we all put our pants on the same way in the morning—one leg at a time."

Most economists expect Fed policymakers, in a pre-emptive strike against inflation, to boost a key short-term interest rate by one-quarter percentage point to 2.50 percent at the February meeting.

That would be the sixth increase since the Fed began raising rates in June 2004.

AP

Give street children more to look forward to.
CHILDHOPE ASIA PHILIPPINES
563-4847 / 561-7118
www.childhope.org.ph

in partnership with INQUIRER

Malaysia to set up development bank for SMEs

MALAYSIA will set up a development bank to assist small- and medium-scale enterprises (SMEs) in 2005, Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi yesterday said.

"The banks at present are focusing their attention on loan applications from big industries and the SMEs are having a problem getting capital," Abdullah said.

"The SMEs require greater attention in the form of capital and loans and the setting up of an SME bank will give them the opportunity for growth," he said.

Abdullah gave no further details, saying these would be worked out by the Treasury.

He was speaking to reporters after an annual conference of the National Economic Action Committee, which includes government and private sector leaders.

Abdullah said the question of revaluing the ringgit against the US dollar was not discussed at the meeting.

The government has said it had no immediate plans to review the peg of 3.80 ringgit to the falling US unit.

AFP

Apple, Al Jazeera top poll on world's influential brands

LONDON—Arabic media channel Al Jazeera has been voted the world's fifth most influential brand in a poll of branding professionals that gave the top slot to US iPod and computer icon Apple.

In the survey of almost 2,000 ad executives, brand managers and academics by online magazine Brandchannel, Apple ousted search engine Google from last year's top spot, but the surprise to many will be Al Jazeera's entry into the top five.

"With all the news from Iraq and Afghanistan and the 'war on terror,' a lot of people are really tuned into the news, and the major news sources have a western bias," Brandchannel Editor Robin Rusch said. "I think people are tuning in to Al Jazeera and looking at its website because it does offer another viewpoint. For the global community, it's one of the few points of access we have to news from the region with a different perspective."

The annual survey asks respondents to rate the impact of a particular brand on people's lives, and does not attempt to quantify its financial value.

Rusch recognizes the professional nature of the magazine's sample can affect the results of the survey, but nonetheless the Al Jazeera brand now ranks in terms of impact alongside giants such as Nokia and Starbucks.

Apple, whose iPod has replaced Sony's Walkman as the personal media player to be seen with, topped both the global and North American rankings in the poll.

Apple, which launched the iPod three years ago, has sold 10 million of them, but the fact that almost half of these were moved in the final quarter of 2004 suggests an avalanche in demand.

"Apple's just done an extraordinary job with innovation, technology and design. The iPod is what has put Apple in the lead this year," Rusch said.

"Sony has had less luck tying together its products as a lifestyle. From a branding perspective, they haven't caught up with Apple's design and ability to capture the imagination."

Swedish furniture chain Ikea, whose global network now extends to 35 countries, takes third place in the global ranking, while ubiquitous coffee chain Starbucks just shades Al Jazeera in the brand impact stakes.

Reuters

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Aries Espinosa**

BPI introduces new MasterCard 'contactless' payment program

AN ENTIRELY new card program featuring a "contactless" method of payment is now set to revolutionize the way Filipinos handle their small cash purchases. Departing from the traditional swiping procedure, the new card program, called MasterCard PayPass, lets cardholders pay by simply tapping the card at a special point of sale terminal.

Bank of the Philippines Islands (BPI), in line with its innovative, pioneering spirit that has characterized its long history of service, is conducting a pilot launch of the new card program. Designated as the BPI Express Credit PayPass card, this new program is the first MasterCard PayPass to be implemented in Southeast Asia. The MasterCard PayPass program has already been successfully test launched in the US, Canada and Japan.

Developed by MasterCard International, PayPass provides consumers with a simpler and quicker way to pay, just tap-and-go. The technology involves a computer microchip and radio frequency antennae embedded in the card itself. By simply tapping the payment card against a specially equipped merchant terminal, payment details are transmitted wirelessly and processed through the secure BPI MasterCard acceptance network in the normal manner. This method eliminates the need to swipe the card through the POS reader or even hand over the card to the merchant. Within seconds, cardholders can receive payment confirmation and be on their way.

The BPI Express Credit PayPass program provides BPI with another opportunity to provide innovative card payment solutions to Filipino consumers. "The BPI Express Credit PayPass technology enables us to better serve our retail partners and cardholders, through a unique, ingenious, and faster payment process. This is true innovation that will definitely enhance the card payment experience of Filipinos and the status of BPI as a banking industry leader," said Aurelio Montinola III, president of BPI.

"The BPI Express Credit PayPass card demonstrates our commitment to provide our customer financial institutions and their cardholders with a variety of innovative and secure options to meet their evolving payment needs. This new program opens additional market segments and a wide range of interesting possibilities. We see tremendous inroads for this payment method in any retail situation where speed is essential and convenience is paramount. We congratulate BPI for this bold initiative to implement a new payment technology in the local market," said Jose Rene Villa-Real, country manager, Philippines, MasterCard International.

Since PayPass transactions are simpler and faster than cash, it is ideal for traditional cash-only environments where speed is essential, such as fast-food restaurants, pay parking lots and movie theaters. With its tap-and-go simplicity, the BPI Express Credit PayPass card allows for even micro payments to be made, so cardholders can use it confidently in convenience stores and other retail outlets where small transactions are common. It also contributes to a greater feeling of security since cardholders never have to let go of their PayPass credit cards when doing transactions.

BPI has targeted a select group of establishments in Makati City to participate in the initial phase of the MasterCard PayPass program rollout. These retail outlets include: Bizu at the 3rd level of Glorietta 4; Burger King outlets at the cinema and 2nd level of Glorietta 4 and Greenbelt 1; Dencio's at the foodcourt of Glorietta 4; Figaro in Greenbelt 3 and Glorietta 3; Hen-lin along Valero St., Makati; Kenny Rogers in Park Square 1 and 2nd level of Glorietta 3; Le Couer de France at the 2nd level of Glorietta and Rustans Supermarket; Mrs. Fields in Greenbelt 1; Red Ribbon in Greenbelt 1 and Park Square 2; Seattle's Best in Greenbelt 3, Glorietta 3, and Paseo Center; Tang City in Valero Parking; Tokyo Tokyo in Glorietta 2; and Wendy's at the cinema level of Glorietta 4.

Just like any other card, the new BPI Express Credit PayPass card is equipped with magnetic stripe. Once full consumer rollout is implemented, cardholders will be able to use it as well at any MasterCard-accredited merchant establishments nationwide and more than 29 million MasterCard acceptance locations worldwide. The BPI Express Credit PayPass card: the first Mastercard PayPass program in Southeast Asia.

ALPS TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY NOW OPEN

The ALPS Technology Academy Inc (Tatai) formerly Kobayashi Dental Technical Training Center Inc, pioneer in providing dental laboratory technology education in the Philippines with a license from Tesda, recently held its grand opening on Jan. 21. Present during the inauguration were (from left): Masahiko Ieda, director of Phil-Japan Association; Dr. Makoto Kobayashi (Tatai CEO); Dr. Koichi Nakashima, dignitary guest from Japan; Dra. Marjorie Gordoncillo Kobayashi (Tatai president); Dir. Carlos Flores of Tesda-Pasay; and Dr. Kunihide Terakawa, also an honorable guest from Japan. The ALPS Technology Academy Inc (Tatai) was established by Dr. Makoto Kobayashi and Dra. Marjorie Gordoncillo Kobayashi. They are both dentists practicing their profession from 1990 up to present. Tatai offers post-graduate courses such as: Dental Porcelain Technique Course and Beginner Course in Denture Work, and a 1 year program - Certificate in Dental Laboratory Technology. Tatai is also accepting sponsorship program for the high school graduates on the 1 year program under M.K. Human Development Project Foundation. It is located at Unit 405-408A, Maga Centre, Paseo de Magallanes, Magallanes Village, Makati City, Tel Nos., 854-3800/852-9627.

Sony Ericsson, WTA tour announce largest global sponsorship

SONY Ericsson Mobile Communications, a leading innovator in mobile phones, and the WTA Tour have jointly announced the signing of a landmark $88 million dollar global sponsorship that makes Sony Ericsson the worldwide title sponsor of the WTA Tour. The six-year deal, which renames the Tour the Sony Ericsson WTA Tour, is the largest and most comprehensive sponsorship in the history of tennis and of women's professional sport. As Sony Ericsson's first global sponsorship, the partnership associates one of the world's fastest growing and innovative global brands in the mobile handset industry with the world's leading professional sport for women.

The Sony Ericsson-WTA Tour partnership is unprecedented in breadth and scope in the history of tennis. Under the deal, Sony Ericsson will become the global title sponsor of the WTA Tour and of the season-ending, globally televised WTA Tour Championships held each November and featuring the world's top eight singles players and top doubles teams. Sony Ericsson will also enjoy a significant on-court presence at the many WTA Tour tournaments throughout the season, with hundreds of matches televised in every region of the world that continue to attract all-time ratings highs. A joint logo representing the partnership has also been unveiled.

"We are extremely pleased to be announcing our first ever global sponsorship deal," said Miles Flint, president of Sony Ericsson Mobile Communications. "Together with the WTA Tour we are exploring a range of opportunities that can integrate technology, design, music, sport and fashion into a compelling entertainment proposition for consumers."

"Today is a landmark occasion for women's sport, tennis and the WTA Tour," said Larry Scott, CEO of the WTA Tour. "This partnership will take women's tennis to a new level of global popularity by immersing new technology and significantly enhancing the entertainment value of our sport. We could not be happier to be partnering with such a world -class, innovative company that shares our vision for the future of the sport."

Partnering the WTA Tour with Sony Ericsson has created a natural platform for the integration of technology, design, fashion, sport and music, attributes that are closely representative of the world of professional tennis. A 50:50 joint venture of Sony and Ericsson, Sony Ericsson brings together industry-leading expertise in digital imaging technology with Bluetooth and telecommunications infrastructure experience. With its line of fashionable and innovative multimedia devices for the 2G and 3G mobile communications networks, the partnership can only help to further enhance and differentiate the values of Sony Ericsson as the brand of choice for personal mobile communications.

The WTA Tour is the governing body of the world's leading global sport for women. It features the most internationally recognized women athletes in sport and stages 63 tournaments across 33 countries throughout the year.

PRUDENTIAL BANK SELECTS MISYS OPICS

Prudential Bank has licensed Misys Opics, the treasury, derivatives and capital markets solution from Misys Wholesale Banking Systems, to strengthen its fixed income treasury operations. With Misys Opics, anticipated improvements in the bank's treasury operations include higher efficiency and accuracy in the front, middle and back office; smoother transaction flow; better risk management through volume and stop-loss limits; and inventory management of securities. Misys now has 18 customers in the Philippines using the Misys Opics solution. Photo shows (seated, from left): Prudential Bank SVP/senior credit officer, Andy Santos and Misys' country manager for Philippines, Kelvin Loh, at the formal contract signing ceremony. Looking on are managers and officers of Prudential Bank and Misys.

MINI STOP
ABS-CBN FOUNDATION, INC.
SAGIP KAPAMILYA

MINISTOP TURNS OVER DONATIONS TO ABS-CBN SAGIP KAPAMILYA

As part of its ongoing community assistance program, Ministop, the country's fastest growing combo-store, together with ABS CBN Foundation Sagip Kapamilya, collected goods from their concerned customers, for the benefit of those affected by the recent calamities that hit the Philippines. Ministop recently turned over the third and last batch of these donations, which were given by Ministop patrons through the different outlets all over Metro Manila. Photo shows Robinsons Distribution Center Inc (RDCI) warehouse manager Marvin Maramara, RDCI head Mario Villameter, Ministop ad and promo manager Jonah Cristobal and Sagip Kapamilya representatives Bernie Peter Bernal and Miguel Gasgas during the turnover ceremonies.

BITS Clips

Globe, Ministop promo

GLOBE AutoloadMAX, the most convenient and affordable way of reloading prepaid credits, is now available in close to 120 Ministop stores nationwide. As an added treat, Globe Handyphone and TM subscribers will get free snacks for a minimum of P50 reload from Jan. 15 to Feb. 14. Reload from P50 to P99 and enjoy Great Taste Ready to Drink Coffee. Reload of P100-P149 comes with a free pack of crunchy Jack n' Jill Spuds potato chips. And for a P150 reload, you can snack heartily on a juicy 8" hotdog. Reload now at Ministop and enjoy your free snack from Globe AutoloadMAX.

'The Rooster Marks a Legacy'

RESIDENTS and guests of Ayala Land Inc's Montgomery Place have plenty to crow about on Feb. 6 as an exciting event welcomes the Chinese New Year through dancing, feasting, entertainment, fortune-telling, and prizes. The Legacy at Montgomery Place will host a series of activities celebrating the Year of the Rooster dubbed "The Rooster Marks a Legacy" from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This latest development from Ayala Land's Montgomery Place is situated along E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue in the heart of Quezon City, and is strategically located near respected educational institutions, medical facilities, and commercial centers. An open house on Feb. 6 will give visitors a chance to discover more of what The Legacy has in store for future homeowners. For inquiries, call 848-5000, log on to www.ayalaland.com.ph.

Act stages 'The King and I'

The KING and I

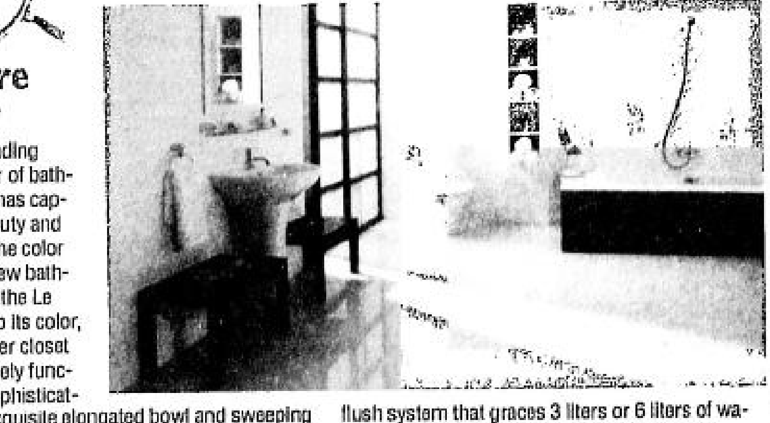
THE PUBLIC is invited to watch the Ateneo Children's Theatre production of Rodger and Hammerstein's the King and I. Gala performances are set for Feb. 4 and 5, 6 p.m. at the Henry Lee Irwin Theatre. Part of the proceeds will go to the support of the rehabilitation efforts of Gabaldon Nueva Ecija . Tickets and play memorabilia will be sold at the lobby of the theatre. For advanced purchases please get in touch with the Ateneo Grade School Registrar's office at 426-6001 local 7238

MAYBANK DONATES TO TYPHOON VICTIMS

Representatives from Maybank Phils Inc recently paid ABS-CBN Foundation a visit to turnover cash donations gathered from Maybank employees for the typhoon victims of Quezon and Aurora. Handing over the donation to ABS-CBN Foundation's Beth Bemida is Maybank corporate affairs officer Deng H. Castro. Also present are Maybank HR officer Lette Carag (left) and Vergel Macabenta, also of ABS-CBN. Maybank Phils is a member of the Maybank Group, Malaysia's largest banking group and among Asia's Top 20 banks. With this simple gesture, Maybank Phils continues the tradition of the group's involvement in bringing cheer to the less fortunate and participating in social welfare/outreach projects.

Product FILES

The pure beauty



TOTO, the leading manufacturer of bathroom wares has captured the beauty and elegance of the color white in its new bathroom jewel - the Le Blanc. True to its color, Le Blanc water closet is immaculately functional and sophisticated with its exquisite elongated bowl and sweeping skirted base that entices the eyes with its pure artistry. With its regal and stylish contours, the Le Blanc Series is a pedigreed high-end toilet and lavatory set - luxury items that will only feel at home in refinement. The Le Blanc water closet is demure and lavish at the same time with its dual flush system that graces 3 liters or 6 liters of water per flush. Paired with a matching Le Blanc lavatory, with its equally graceful and functional design, envision bathroom heaven with lustrous wares that immerses your sights and senses in opulence. The Le Blanc set can blossom in any bathroom decor that matches its pristine beauty

ADDMIX: BEST PARTNER TO CEMENT

AddMix products can strengthen, volumize and improve workability of cement. AddMix has four variants with each designed to suit the varying needs of builders. AddMix Plus is the volume expander. AddMix Easy is the plaster mortar enhancer, AddMix Ultra is the fortifier and accelerator for concrete poured in beams, columns and floorings and AddMix Tilebond which has triple bonding agents.

B6
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 897-8425 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8978425
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 522-4406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2005

RATES
P245 per column centimeter
P75 per line
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Mondays to Saturdays
12:00 noon
Day before publication
Sundays
12:00 noon
every Thursday

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

RAPID Tx VD-STD
Ex. SWEAT PIMPLES KELOID
ALLERGY WARTS SKIN PEEL
15 Annapolis Greenhills
Call 7276124 - 25 9am-7pm

VDSTD Skin Clinic Rapid Tx Comp Lab Tel. 8175071 Malrinco 2178 P. Tamo Makati

GARMA CLINIC
VD SPECIALIST
VD GONORRHEA, WARTS SYPHILIS, HERPES, AIDS
ADULT CIRCUMCISION
VAGINAL REPAIR
SKIN DISEASES
COMPLETE LABORATORY
No. 8 Purdue St., Cubao,
Q. C. back of
Stella Maris College
OPEN 8 AM to 6 PM
MON. to SAT.
Tel. 4392706 / 9139474

PERSONAL

MASSAGE

02-3233269 Male Factor

ADAM'S APPLE 3605724

AKHIN THAI MASGE 8347357
BGO, CBU, DVO, MLA, PLWN

ASK BELL MALE MASSEUR
(0921)5364794

Candy 8971506;09212085309

H'SOME ATHLETES 8327363

MALE/F 09192714842 BEAN

MASSAGE 8547144 BILLY

MR. UNIVERSE SPA
1157 Quezon Ave. 410-1259

★ Mr BODY PHYSIQUE ★
11A Kamias QC 4350978

Reflex Massage 0915-4083339

RELAXING MASSAGE 8978214

THAI Msge Lic 0921-7569278

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE 752-0018

ULTIMUS
100% Class A Male Masseur
30% Discount
1143-I Del Monte Ave Q.C.
410-7326

REFLEXOLOGY

Edgar Reflex 7571013

I-spa Ctland 9 Mkt 8160151

•Wizard Massage 4213197•

TUTORIAL LESSONS

AmSpeak/Languages 8944311 7570926

GBG TUTORIAL 6876581

HOUSEHOLD

EFFICIENT MAIDS
PROV'L. & CITY ALL AROUND MAIDS SCREENED W/REF. NBI POL. CLEAR. 873-7055•873-5062•873-7057

NEWLY ARRIVED PROVINCIAL MAIDS MIDWIFE NURSE YAYA COOK LABA H'GIRL/BOY DRIVER SCREENED W/CLEAR. CALL "JOY" 872-2792•872-0265•873-5271

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

A'A MAIDS & YAYA 4380920

ANGEL MAIDS 4213253

HI PAY MAID, YAYA 732-67-50

Best Maid Yaya Boy 9957034

Direct Maid Yaya Cook 4214652

DIRECT MAIDS,YAYA, COOK 7289060

Good Maid Yaya Boy 7502197

GOOD MAIDS YAYA 896-7402

Help Agency 532-1947 • 532-2971

NEED MAIDS 0915-5544777

BEST MAIDS 8294261

Trusted Maids Yaya Boy 7572089

TRUSTWORTHY DISPILINADO

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

HOUSEHOLD

LIPAT BAHAY

•731-6833•LIPAT

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

Cheap 9260424/09272207959

P1200/TRIP 742-14-57

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMM'L/RES'DL

QUEZON CITY

*Kamias #11 K-I cor K-6th NEW * 9210255 9219967 9209822

SAN JUAN

6000m² SITE 4 Hospital, Condo, Thse, Shpng Ctr or Any? 0918-6187744 or 941-51-29

HOUSE & LOT

MANILA

NEAR LA SALLE
BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge/deck P3.610M up 8903461

MARIKINA

Bnew 4BR 3TB 2.6M 9487112

PARANAQUE

LA1800m² 8223346/8219948

MARCELO GREEN
2sty Hse LA350m² corner 5BR 4TB 6471240•4395075•09175312376

QUEZON CITY

FILINVEST II Q.C. 280m²-LA 350m²-FA P4M RUSH 4BR 4TB 2-sty 6319877 / 09178999797

HORSESHOE VILLAGE
LA-1360m² 2sty hse+guest hse/ofc pool very quiet garden elevated 6471240•4395075•09175312376

OTHER PROVINCIAL

CAG DE ORO 300sqm 3BR 2TB 1.5M 09175330491

BULACAN

STA. MARIA 225T 9372688

STA. MARIA 225T 9372688

LAGUNA

BINAN P400T/mo 5201792

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1.2M C5 Nr The Fort
12T/mo. or 4Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mkti 0917-8313226

RENT TO OWN Condo 2-4br 12T Nr D Fort / Market' 0917-7469270 / 0920-7761824

MANILA

CONDO APT w/grg 5536296

SN ANDRES MANILA Bnew Twnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge P3.355M up 8903461 loo 34

PASIG

Rent 2Own Condo 2br/30K Ortigas Cntr 0915-5838525

LOT

LAS PINAS

PHILAM LA604 P7500 / m²
AL 874-1465 / 0918-937-2571

QUEZON CITY

Exclusive Res'l Lot
nr Ateneo/UP/Miriam
204m²@P8.5th 09189235216

KATIPUNAN EXT COM'L
beside future Kenny Rogers
1,100m & 451m = P9 5th/m
454 5667 / 0918-923521

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

SMILE CITIHOMES & SMILE ANNEX

Bgy. Zabarte Novaliches, Quezon City

for as LOW as P2,672/mo.*

PHINMA

812-PPHC • 0917-812-PPHC • 0922-812-PPHC
(7742) (7742) (7742)
marketing@phinma.com.ph • www.phinmaproperties.com

*Based on P2651 HDMF loan value as of June 27, 2004

BOOMLAND REALTY: 817-9650 • REACH OUT REALTY: 983-1804
FORTE REALTY: 830-0372 • CONCORDE REALTY: 427-7720
WELCOME REALTY: 413-3313

LOT

QUEZON CITY

LOYOLA GRAND VILLAS
choice lots w/ view, Sweden Street available 426-5650, 929-1832 • 0919-8212235

WEST TRIANGLE HOMES QC
434.3sqm w/old house
SACRED HEART VIL-7 QC
Near SM Fairview 300-1200 Sqm
(02)-4110352
0917-5140323

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

PROVINCIAL

★100% TAGAYTAY ★
240m²-up 3,566/m² 134T DP & bal to pay 6T /mo. nr Taal Vista 6609372

PARANAQUE

4BR 3TB NR SM BCTAN 19T 2 GARAGE BONG 09178571049

PASAY

HOUSE INSIDE COMPOUND PLS CALL 8317527/8857267

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

2BR mds rm 2 sty Twnhse full furn 2TB Ecoville nr Ayala Ave. Tel. - 896-4883

APARTMENT

MANILA

561-0960 0920-4136412 AJ 5,500 - 7,000 New Built House

QUEZON CITY

34 YALE CUBAO 9310449

WAREHOUSE/ FACTORY

5000m² Lot 2500m² covered Quirino Hwy Mindanao Ave 3phase strong h/o secured Tom 0917-6357142 / 9311313

ROOM & BOARD

•FURNISH PASAY 8872865•

Nr Chin. Gen Mla 7836781

P2001 Sucat Pque 8275345

BUSINESS RENTAL

AYALA AVE 8181696/7586

CUBAO Shp 500m² 25T 7257342

RESORT LEASE/ RENT

Pansol Hot Spring priv 7767607

LOAN & MORTGAGE

BUSINES DOCTOR 524-3197

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

35m 2/Flr MDA Bldg PBT Nr Mand City Hall 7232983

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL

260m² w/5 Offices 5487 Boyle St, Palanan Mkti 804-0067

HOUSE & LOT

Capitolyo 6BR 16M 631-3496

Maybunga 3BR 2TB 6353151

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HONDA

00 Accord VTI 550T 4361294

02 Civic VTI 585T a/t 4267915

02CivicVTI 575T m/t 9254566

MITSUBISHI

GLXI 95" WEEL MAINTAINED NOTHING TO FIX 2727813

VOLVO

98 VOLVO S70
AT P475T
0917-5383184

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

CAR VANS 929-2811 410-0495

CarsVans CoasterBus 422-9296

CARS/VANS/BRIDAL 8969956

Cheap Van Rental 9330311

MB 7415897•09209328657

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

REVO w/driver 9272821

Toyco U Drive w/ Driver All Kinds Cars Van Revo Dly. Wk.Mo. Rental 8023021-22

LAKBAY 951-9481

ABC RENT A CAR
HI-ACE•STAREX
L300•CRV•REVO
HONDA•VIOS•ALTIS•LYNX•CRLA
MLA: 536-8822 • 303-9789
Q.C.: 426-2278 • 426-4084

CAR LOAN

1.5% Car Loan 5344441

1.5% Car Loan 5344441

1.5% CARLOAN 373-8519

1.5% CARLOAN 788-0361

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY TO (A) INSTALL, CONSTRUCT AND MAINTAIN PROPOSED MAJOR PROJECTS FOR YEAR 2005 AND (B) TO INSTALL, CONSTRUCT AND MAINTAIN ADDITIONAL PROJECTS FOR YEAR 2004, WITH PRAYER FOR PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY

ERC CASE NO. 2004-478

ANGELES ELECTRIC CORPORATION (AEC),
Applicant.
x---x

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given on December 23, 2004 of the filing by applicant Angeles Electric Corporation (AEC) of an application for authority to install, construct and maintain proposed major projects for year 2005 and additional projects for year 2004 with prayer for provisional authority, docketed as ERC Case No. 2004-478.

The Commission has set the application for hearing on February 10, 2005 at two o'clock (2:00 P.M.) in the afternoon at the ERC Hearing Room, 15th Floor, Pacific Center Building, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

All interested parties who may wish to comment on or oppose the said application should file their comments and/or oppositions on or before the date of hearing. Such parties who may wish to have the details of the application and who shall have manifested to the Commission their desire and intention to participate actively in the proceedings, may request that before the date of hearing, they be furnished with copies of the application by the applicant, which is hereby directed to furnish the parties making such request with copies of the application and its attachments. Likewise, any such interested party may examine the application and other pertinent records filed with the Commission during the usual office hours.

WITNESS the Honorable RODOLFO B. ALBANO, JR., Chairman and the Honorables OLIVER B. BUTALID, JESUS N. ALCORDO and ALEJANDRO Z. BARIN, Commissioners, Energy Regulatory Commission, this 11th day of January 2005 at Pasig City.

(Sgd.) FRUCTUOSO C. LAGUNZAD, JR.
Executive Director III

(PDI - Feb. 1, 2005)

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 8956630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021.

2% w/out taking car 5315577

2% w/out taking car 5315577

2% w/out taking car 6567685

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BUY/SELL

College Plans 0917-7939632

PETS

DOG TRAINER 0919-2050952

PHIL . DOG SCHOOL
TRAINS w/FULL GUARANTEE
TEL. 0917-8489308

WANTED TO BUY

A NAME YOU CAN TRUST!
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX+OTHERS
& Other Swiss Watches
DIAMONDS / JEWELRY
Hi-Appraisal/Fast Cash
Repair/Polish Any Watch
T#804-0484 • 834-2886

'PROFESSIONAL & CREDIBLE'
LOW 5% INTEREST
BUY • SELL • PAWN
SWISS WATCHES
AGENCIA de MAKATI-4587017
SECONDO AYALA CENTER-8940262
OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5646593 5897041
5633742 0917-8473744

BUYING ROLEX
Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
0917-8142309 • 7269687
7220433 • 4123543

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given of the loss of S2 License No. 9309R98-189 registered to Dr. Joan Tride F. Ocubillo

Notice of lost Stck. Cert# 268921 of Oriental Petroleum & Minerals Corp of FERMINA M. GENERAL.
(PDI-Jan. 25, Feb 1 & 8, 2005)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

FREE REPORT: HOW TO MAKE A [illegible]

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

L88EDC has TRANSFORMED & CHANGED the lives of many professionals into GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURS. www.L88edc.com

Laundry Eqpt 4Rent 4Hoover Wash 2WhirlPool Dry 10kg Including Stall @ New Mla QC for P20T/mo. 723-2983

RTW Consign 09167940002

BUSINESS FOR SALE

Sec.Agency/DermaClnc 6313496

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

Brake & Clutch Reliner Pasig Area 641-8567 Rey

LATERO TINSMITH 4571196

FEMALE

ACCOUNTANT / BOOKKEEPER fulltime 22-30y/o nr C'wealth prepare FST 931-3643

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Computer literate w/exp
8437633/37 • 8437539

MED REP 995-7539

Receptionist @ SM Megamall 17-28 Yrs Old 0917-8398638

WANTED DENTIST OPTOMETRIST FEMALE 9362115

MALE/FEMALE

BSP•BSN•PT•MT
Any Allied Health Grads up to P45T/ Mo! 8922818

CAREGIVER T4043528

Pharmacist 6915513 • 09178512031

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT
Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City

BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS

In Compliance with RA 7041

I GRAFT INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OFFICER (GIPO) II
- A. OFFICE OF THE CHIEF LEGAL COUNSEL (OCLC)
  Item No. OMBA-GI02-112-1998; SG-27
- B. PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB) – A
  Item Nos. OMBA-GI02-10-1998; OMBA-GI02-12-1998; OMBA-GI02-19-1998; OMBA-GI02-20-1998; SG-27 (4 Positions)

Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: Four (4) years of experience in the practice of law, counseling, investigation/prosecution of cases, hearings of administrative/criminal cases, legal research or other related work; Training: Twenty four (24) hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR)

II GRAFT INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OFFICER (GIPO) I
- A. PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB) – A
  Item Nos. OMBA-GI01-46-1998; OMBA-GI01-119-1998; OMBA-GI01-131-1998; SG-26 (3 Positions)
- B. PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB) – B
  Item No. OMBA-GI01-65-1998; SG-26
- C. PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB) – C
  Item Nos. OMBA-GI01-71-1998; OMBA-GI01-107-1998; SG-26 (2 Positions)
- D. FIELD INVESTIGATION OFFICE (FIO)
  Item No. OMBA-GI01-24-1998; OMBA GI01-53-1998 (Intelligence Bureau); SG-26 (2 Positions)

Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: Three (3) years of experience in the practice of law, counseling, investigation/prosecution of cases, hearings of administrative/criminal cases, legal research or other related work; Training: 24 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR)

III FIELD INVESTIGATION OFFICE (FIO)

* GRAFT PREVENTION AND CONTROL OFFICER V – Item No. OMBA-GPCO5-17-2003 (ASSOCIATE GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER IV) SG-24
Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience. Two (2) years of experience in investigation / intelligence operations, systems and operations review / analyses / audit, or other related work; Training: Thirty two (32) hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR)

OR

Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Experience: Four (4) years of experience in investigation / intelligence operations, systems and operations review / analyses / audit, or other related work; Training: Thirty two (32) hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Professional / Relevant Eligibility for Second Level Position

IV CENTRAL RECORDS DIVISION
- A * RECORDS OFFICER II – Item No. OMBA-RO2-1-1998; SG14
  Education: Bachelor's degree; Experience: One (1) year of relevant experience; Training: Four (4) hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Professional / Second Level Eligibility
- B. * COMPUTER OPERATOR III – Item No. OMBA-COMPO3-13-2003; SG12
  Education: Completion of two (2) years studies in college or High School Graduate with relevant vocational / trade course; Experience: Two (2) years of relevant experience: Training: 8 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Subprofessional / Data Encoder (MC 11, s.96-Cat. I)/First Level Eligibility

V PLANNING AND BUDGET DIVISION
- A. BUDGET OFFICER I – Item No. OMBA-BUDO1-1-1998; SG-11
  Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: Career Service Professional / Second Level Eligibility
- B. PLANNING OFFICER I – Item No. OMBA-PLO1-1-1998; SG-11
  Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: Career Service Professional / Second Level Eligibility

VI MONITORING AND EDP DIVISION

PROJECT EVALUATION ASSISTANT - Item No. OMBA-PEA-1-1998 SG-8

Education: Completion of two (2) years studies in college; Experience: One year of relevant experience; Training; 4 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Subprofessional / First Level Eligibility

* This is a republication of the vacancies published on June 9, 2004 and June 30, 2004. Previous applicants were already evaluated and processed. New applications will no longer be accepted.

VII ACCOUNTING DIVISION
- A. ACCOUNTANT IV – Item No. OMBA-A4-1-1998; SG-22
  Education: Bachelor's degree in Commerce / Business Administration major in Accounting; Experience; Three years of relevant experience; Training: Sixteen hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080 (CPA)
- B. ACCOUNTANT I – Item No. OMBA-A1-2-1998; SG-11
  Education: Bachelor's degree in Commerce/Business Administration major in Accounting; Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: RA 1080 (CPA)

VIII PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB) – A

STENOGRAPHIC REPORTER III – Item No. OMBA-STENR3-26-1998; SG-11

Education: Completion of two years studies in college; Experience: Two years of relevant experience; Training: Eight hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Subprofessional / First Level Eligibility

IX BUREAU OF RESIDENT OMBUDSMAN (BRO)

CLERK III – Item Nos. OMBA-CK3-4-1998 and OMBA-CK3-8-1998; SG-6
Education: Completion of two (2) years studies in college; Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: Career Service Subprofessional / First Level Eligibility

Interested applicants should submit applications within twenty (20) working days from the date of this publication to the Human Resource Management Division at the above address, the following requirements pursuant to Office Order No. 05-17, series of 2005.

1) AN APPLICATION LETTER STATING THE POSITION/ITEM NUMBER APPLIED FOR;
2) DULY ACCOMPLISHED PERSONAL DATA SHEET (CSC FORM 212);
3) 1" x 1" PICTURE (COLORED);
4) BIRTH CERTIFICATE;
5) BAR RATING / CSC CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY;
6) TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS;
7) CERTIFICATES OF SEMINARS/TRAININGS ATTENDED,
8) SERVICE RECORDS OR CERTIFICATES FROM PREVIOUS/PRESENT EMPLOYERS STATING THE POSITION ASSUMED AND CORRESPONDING ACTUAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (IF APPLICABLE);
9) POLICE CLEARANCE
10) NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (NBI) CLEARANCE;
11) CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION (CSC) CLEARANCE (ONLY FOR APPLICANTS WHO ARE OR HAVE BEEN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES);
12) RESULTS OF NEURO-PSYCHIATRIC TEST ADMINISTERED NOT EARLIER THAN SIX MONTHS FROM THE PUBLICATION OF THE POSITION; AND
13) CERTIFICATION UNDER OATH OF THE APPLICANT AS TO ANY RELATIVE(S) OF THE APPLICANT WITHIN THE FOURTH DEGREE OF CONSANGUINITY AND AFFINITY, CURRENTLY EMPLOYED WITH THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN.

URGENT NEED!

OFFICE SALES PERSONNEL

- CANDIDATE MUST BE FEMALE, WITH A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN ANY COMPUTER FIELD OR EQUIVALENT
- WITH GOOD MORAL CHARACTER
- NOT MORE THAN 26 YEARS OLD
- GOOD COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- NEWLY GRADUATES ARE WELCOME

INTERESTED CANDIDATES MAY SEND RESUMÉ AT:
#449 BULALAKAW ST., PLAINVIEW, MANDALUYONG CITY near MANDALUYONG CITY HALL. Tel. # 747-6428 / 31 or e-mail us at @ [illegible]

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 897-8425 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8978425
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 522-4406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK
Mortuary & Crematory
"The newest and most modern Funeral Home & Crematory in the country!
Trunk Line: (632) 846-2334 to 38
Direct Line: (632) 846-2440

ERRATUM

In the obituary of Agnes "Girlie" Flores Domingo, published in this newspaper last Sunday, January 30, 2005 the date to which masses will be offered should have been dated Monday, January 31, 2005.

"Let the words
of my mouth
meet your
Favor, Keep the
thoughts of my
heart before
you, Lord, my
rock, my
redeemer..."
— Psalm 21:15

"Be at rest once more. O my soul, for the Lord has been good to me."
Psalm 116:7

PURITA N. DE LEON

Died in the peace of the Lord on January 30, 2005
at the age of 81 in Balanga City, Bataan.

Her remains lie in state at **SANTUARIO GARDEN & CHAPELS-CAPILLA DEL BETANIA**, Talisay Street, Balanga City, Bataan.

Her sisters **Concepcion L. Resurreccion, Visitacion L. Guño** (deceased) **Rosario de Leon** (deceased) nieces and nephews request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Interment will be on Wednesday February 2, 2005 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the St. Joseph's Cathedral, Balanga City, Bataan.

Gloria Nenita E. Torres

Peacefully joined our Creator
on January 29, 2005 at the age of 65.

Her brothers and sisters, **Crisanta, Marcelino Jr., Perpetua, Gregorio** (†), **Amelia** and **Milalou**, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request your pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday,
February 3, 2005 at Heritage Memorial
Park, Taguig City.

IN MEMORIAM

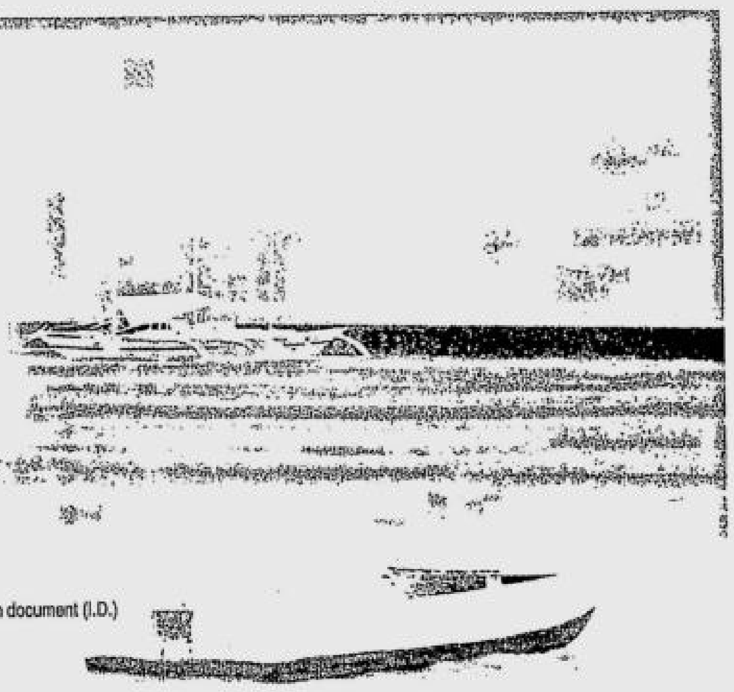
On the Seventh Death Anniversary of

CORAZON R. CUI

On the 1st of February 2005, her 7th death anniversary, Masses and prayers will be offered at St. Paul's Parish, Richmond, BC, Canada, St. James the Great Parish, Ayala Alabang, Mary Mother of Good Counsel Church, Marcelo Green Village.

We are very grateful to all who keep our beloved **CORITO** in their memory and who continue to pray for her.

Mackie, Gabby, Rosabel, Carla, Mako
and grandson ***Zachary***


An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES
OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)
WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments.

ATTY. MARIANO M. CAPANAS, JR.

of Ibajay, Aklan &
Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental

Peacefully joined our Lord
on January 29, 2005 at the age of 64.

His loving wife **MILA**; his only son and daughter-in-law **MARIO & AZZALI** and grandson **ANDREI MARTI**, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Rolling Hills Memorial Chapel of Hope, Mandalagan, Bacolod City until January 31, 2005. His remains will be transferred to Ibajay, Aklan.

Interment will be on Saturday, February 5, 2005 at Ibajay Catholic Cemetery after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

CLASSIFIEDS

Your career might only be a click of the mouse away.

JOB Market
www.jobmarketonline.com

Nickle Babbit / Lead

A Buyer is interested in **purchasing** large quantities of NB/Lead. Substantial bonus and possibility of long term commissions paid for assistance in purchasing the contents of various bunkers established prior to WWII. Sellers please contact **Tel. no. (083) 5524507 ; Cel ph 09204891117**

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines is inviting interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

PROJECT	APPROVED BUDGET
Consultancy Services for World Bank-Development Bank of the Philippines Rural Power Project	Source of Fund: World Bank-GEF Grant P 1,900,000.00

Contract Begins: April 1, 2005
Schedule of Activities:

Particulars	Date	Venue
Submission and Opening of Letter of Intent (LOI) and Eligibility Requirement Documents	"On or before" 9:00 a.m. of February 9, 2005 (Wednesday)	BAC Secretariat, 6th/ Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Pre-Bidding Conference	February 23, 2005 (Wednesday) at 9:00 a.m.	PSM, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Submission of Technical Proposal and Financial Proposal of Eligible Consultants/ Bidders	"On or before" 9:00 a.m. of March 8, 2005 (Tuesday)	BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Opening of Technical Proposal	March 8, 2005 (Tuesday) at 10:00 a.m.	OPS Conference Room, 5th/Floor, DBP Building, Makati City

DBP is in need of consultancy services for capacity building program which will strengthen DBP's capability in attracting borrowers for Rural Power Project and to effectively manage the processing, appraisal performance monitoring and implementation of new and renewable energy projects. Applications for eligibility check is open to individuals/firms with at least three (3) years of experience on this field. Interested parties may secure the Eligibility Requirement Forms from the Procurement Services Division, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City or you may download these forms at www.devbankphil.com.ph and at the Electronic Procurement Service of the Department of Budget and Management. A non-refundable fee of Php 500.00 will be charged to all eligible bidders. Quality Based (QB) method of evaluation will be used in the evaluation of proposals.

The Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act no. 9184 series of 2003 will be used in the conduct of this Bidding.

The DBP reserves the right to reject documents that do not comply with the requirements.

For further inquiries, please call telephone numbers 8126375/8151613.

Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI- Feb. 1 & 8, 2005)

DBP
ADB EQUITY INFUSION INTO LGUGC
Agreements Signing by BAP-DBP-ADB-LGUGC
January 21, 2005
RCBC Plaza, 47/F Yuchen
Makati City
ADB
LGUGC

LGUGC GETS US$ 1.3 MILLION EQUITY INVESTMENT FROM ADB
THE LGU Guarantee Corporation (LGUGC), a joint venture between the Bankers Association of the Philippines and the Development Bank of the Philippines, recently received an equity investment of US$1.3 million from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The capital infusion, which is equivalent to a 25% stake in the company, will boost LGUGC's capital base to P348 million and strengthen its capability to meet the demand for its growing credit guarantee services. The move is also expected to translate to more commercial credits available from private financial institutions (PFIs) for the revenue-generating and infrastructure development projects of local government units (LGUs), David noted. With this development, he added, the LGU sector will be able to play a more strategic role in pursuing development projects to reduce poverty and promote the economies in the rural areas. Shown in photo during the signing of the agreement are (from left): DBP president and CEO Reynaldo G. David; ADB senior finance specialist Stephen Wermert; LGUGC president and CEO Jesus Tirona; director Alfredo Pascual of the ADB Private Sector Operations Division; and Dr. Cesar E. A. Virata, LGUGC vice chair and BAP president.

DENR cancels 84 'idle' mining permits

DEFENSOR

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources has cancelled 84 mining permits, also known as mining production sharing agreements or MPSAs, that were issued in the last 24 years and which covered areas that remained undeveloped or non-performing to this day.

Environment Secretary Michael Defensor, in a briefing yesterday, said his agency and the Bureau of Mines and Geosciences suspect that holders of these permits apparently had no intention to develop their respective mining areas but were just planning to lease out the claims to other groups so they could collect fees or royalties.

An MPSA is a 25-year contract granted exclusively to corporations majority owned by Filipinos for the exploration of a maximum of 16,200 hectares of land and, subsequently, for the commercial exploitation of a maximum of 5,000 hectares of mineral land.

A list provided by the DENR showed that among the MPSAs cancelled were those granted to Crescent Mining Development Corp., Josephine M. Cojuangco, Pyro Copper Mining Corp., Samar Mining Corp., Bonifacia Benitez, Romulo B. Reyes, Eufemia Montilla, Linfair Development Corp., the heirs of Vicente Raneses, Edgardo Cardozo and the heirs of Epifanio Landicho.

These MPSAs covered not less than 10 hectares to as large as 16,000 hectares in potential metallic and non-metallic mining grounds.

Defensor said the cancellation of these permits would pave the way for other potential investors to go into mining as these areas would be opened to other groups interested in pursuing mining projects. He said these areas could generate not less than $5 billion if they would be developed.

He said the DENR was also reviewing the list of pending applications for FTAAs, to determine whether applicants were still interested.

A financial technical assistance agreement or FTAA is also a 25-year contract but unlike MPSAs, it allows the entry of up to 100 percent foreign-owned corporations that meet the requirements set in the Mining Act.

The FTAA requires a minimum investment commitment of $50 million for infrastructure and mine development. The contractor, under this agreement, can explore up to 81,000 hectares of land and exploit commercially a maximum of 5,000 hectares.

One of the largest FTAAs issued by the DENR is the one covering the Tampacan project previously held by Western Mining Corp. but was later transferred to Sagittarius Mines Inc. of the Alcantara Group.

GMA Network sees ₱2B in income this year

By Clarissa S. Batino

GMA Network Inc. is expecting to hit a net income of P2 billion this year, with revenue seen reaching P9 billion.

GMA Network president Felipe Gozon said the company was banking on the projected 15-percent increase in airtime revenue and on the improvement of its cost efficiency to achieve a 33-percent jump in profit, from P1.5 billion last year.

"We are assuming that we will continue to be No.1," said Gozun.

He said GMA Network had exceeded its revenue target of P7.5 billion last year and met its P1.5-billion profit target due to robust airtime sales.

Gozon said the company's revenue topped the target by about 3 to 4 percent but higher production spending clipped some of the gains.

"Our revenue last year was more than P7.6 billion. But the cost of producing the soaps, like Mulawin, raised our cost of operations," said Gozon.

In 2003, GMA posted a profit of P1 billion, becoming the most profitable broadcast network in the country.

The company is preparing for the sale of as much as 30 percent of its outstanding shares to the public within the first half of the year to raise about P9 billion.

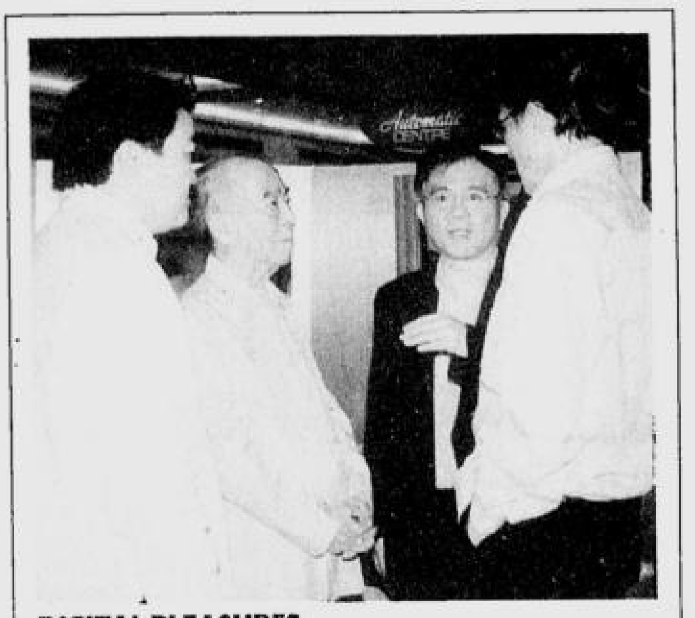
GMA Network said operating expenses went up last year due to the increases in the costs of production, advertising and promotion, amortization of program rights, and salaries and allowances.

Gozon said these expenditures were crucial in maintaining GMA's top rating. The company is hoping that the upgrading of its facilities would improve GMA's rating in the provinces.

GMA claimed it continued to top rival network ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. to lead in the ratings war in Metro Manila.

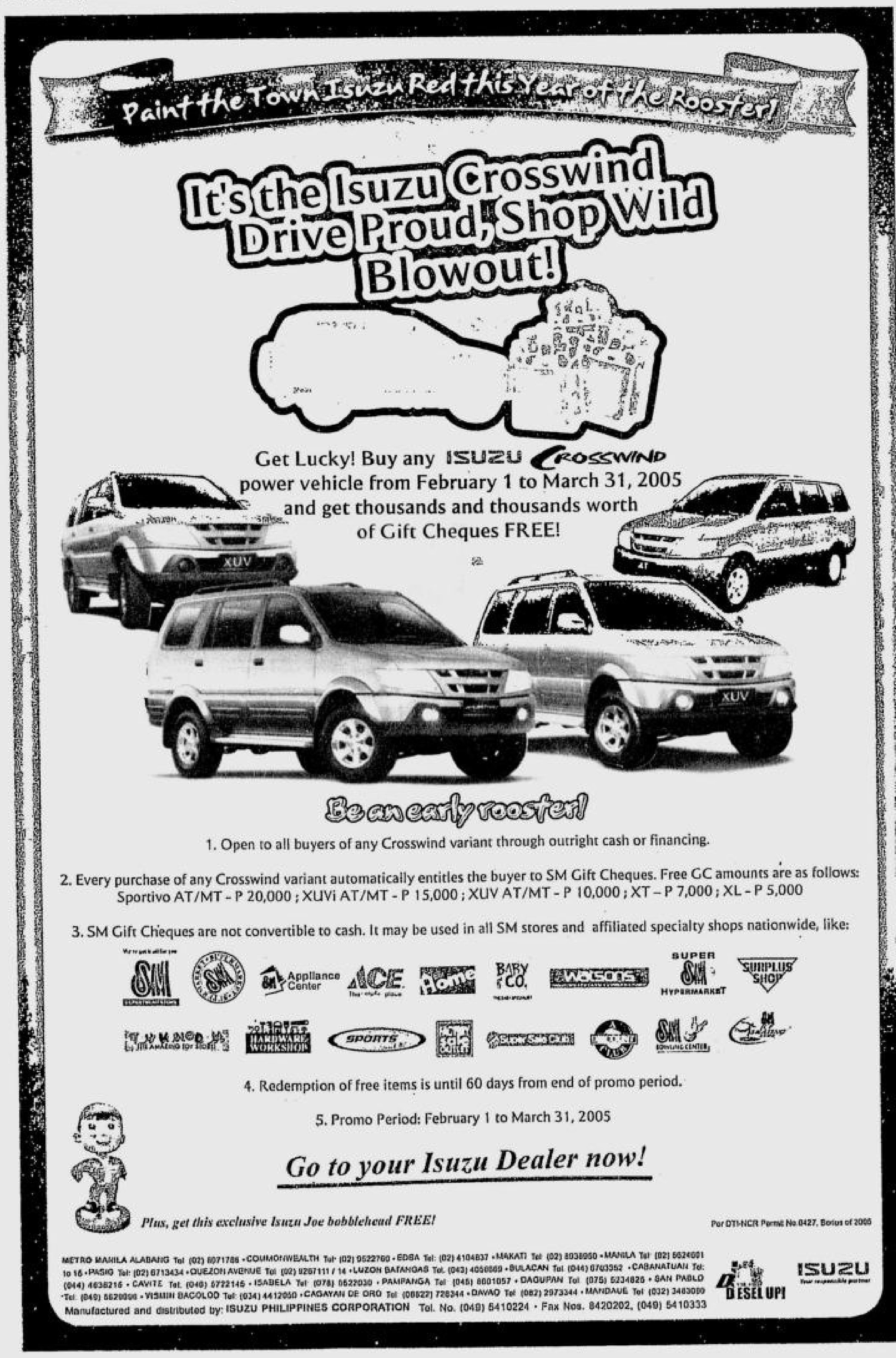
Gozon said the company would raise its authorized capital from the current P1 billion to accommodate the sale of primary shares, the proceeds of which will go to the company and will be used to finance its expansion program and to pay less than P500 million in outstanding debt. A simultaneous secondary offering will go to the coffers of the families of Gozon, Duavit and Jimenez, who control GMA. The owners, Gozon said, would like to broaden the ownership base of the network giant to strengthen its accountability to the public.

The company's estimated market value is between P27 billion and P30 billion.



DIGITAL PLEASURES

Automatic Appliances Inc. chair Don Benito Lim (2nd from left) is flanked by (from left) Eric Lim, Automatic Center president Samie Lim, and Araneta Group of Companies chair and CEO Jorge Araneta at the opening of Digital Pleasures exhibit at the Gateway Mall at the Araneta Center. The exhibit provides pleasure-seekers with the latest in Flat Panel TVs, high definition projection TVs, high resolution flat screen TVs, and DVD recorders. Digital Pleasures exhibit runs up to Feb. 6.


Paint the Town Isuzu Red this Year of the Rooster!
It's the Isuzu Crosswind Drive Proud, Shop Wild Blowout!
XUV
XUV
Be an early rooster!

Get Lucky! Buy any ISUZU CROSSWIND power vehicle from February 1 to March 31, 2005 and get thousands and thousands worth of Gift Cheques FREE!

1. Open to all buyers of any Crosswind variant through outright cash or financing.

2. Every purchase of any Crosswind variant automatically entitles the buyer to SM Gift Cheques. Free GC amounts are as follows: Sportivo AT/MT - P 20,000 ; XUVi AT/MT - P 15,000 ; XUV AT/MT - P 10,000 ; XT – P 7,000 ; XL - P 5,000

3. SM Gift Cheques are not convertible to cash. It may be used in all SM stores and affiliated specialty shops nationwide, like:

4. Redemption of free items is until 60 days from end of promo period.

5. Promo Period: February 1 to March 31, 2005

Go to your Isuzu Dealer now!

Plus, get this exclusive Isuzu Joe bobblehead FREE!

Per DTI-NCR Permit No.0427, Series of 2005

METRO MANILA ALABANG Tel (02) 8071786 • COMMONWEALTH Tel (02) 9522760 • EDSA Tel: (02) 4104837 • MAKATI Tel (02) 8038950 • MANILA Tel (02) 5624001 to 16 • PASIG Tel: (02) 6713434 • QUEZON AVENUE Tel (02) 9267111 / 14 • LUZON BATANGAS Tel. (043) 4050869 • BULACAN Tel (044) 6703352 • CABANATUAN Tel: (044) 4638216 • CAVITE Tel. (046) 5722146 • ISABELA Tel (078) 6622030 • PAMPANGA Tel (045) 8601057 • DAGUPAN Tel (075) 5234826 • SAN PABLO • Tel. (049) 5620098 • VISMIN BACOLOD Tel (034) 4412050 • CAGAYAN DE ORO Tel (08822) 726344 • DAVAO Tel (082) 2973344 • MANDAUE Tel (032) 3463000

Manufactured and distributed by: ISUZU PHILIPPINES CORPORATION Tel. No. (049) 5410224 • Fax Nos. 8420202, (049) 5410333

DIESEL UPI ISUZU

BPI, PNB posted profit growth in '04

By Doris C. Dumlao

BANK of the Philippine Islands and Philippine National Bank posted robust growths in net profits in 2004 on the back of higher interest and fee-based earnings.

BPI, the country's second biggest bank, reported a net income of P6.7 billion last year, P1 billion or 17 percent higher than P5.7 billion in 2003.

PNB recorded its second straight year of profitability, with its net profit in 2004 more than doubling to P353 million from P168 million a year ago, the bank said.

PNB is three years ahead of profitability targets under a state-assisted rehabilitation program forged with the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas in 2002.

BPI's total revenue was up 13 percent, driven by both net interest income and non-interest income.

Net interest income increased by 17 percent due to the growth of the bank's asset base and the 39 -basis point expansion in net interest margins.

Non-interest income rose by a moderate 5 percent.

Its market capitalization stood at P118 billion at end 2004 as against the book value of P52 billion.

In the meantime, PNB said its net interest income last year surged to P2.96 billion from P1.53 billion in 2003.

"The successful restructuring efforts on some major accounts previously classified as non-performing and a very good mix in the bank's investment portfolio greatly contributed to the improvement of the interest income figures," PNB said in a separate statement.

PNB's fee-based income also grew last year due mainly to a 6 percent year-on-year increase in dollar remittances to $2.43 billion despite tighter anti-money laundering requirements.

Despite an increase in its deposits, PNB was able to slash the cost of funds last year to P5.66 billion from P5.69 billion in 2003. However, administrative and other expenses rose 2 percent on year to P5.48 billion as a result of the government's decision to shift back to the gross receipts system in taxing banks.

SM Investments raises stake in BDO to 52%

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SM INVESTMENTS Corp.'s stake in Banco de Oro Universal Bank rose to 52 percent from 47 percent following the purchase of an additional 5-percent interest in the commercial bank worth P1.068 billion.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, BDO said SMIC bought the 5.14-percent stake of DBS Hongkong Ltd. in the bank, equivalent to 47.99 million shares in BDO at P22.268 per share.

The sale was completed at the stock market yesterday. BDO closed at P31 per share. The price at which SMIC bought its additional stake is in line with BDO's secondary offer to the foreign market last November at P21 per share.

With this sale, DBS Hongkong has fully divested its interest in BDO. DBS Hongkong owns roughly 27 percent of the Bank of the Philippine Islands.

BDO increased its public float or shares owned by investors last November when two of its major shareholders—SM Group and DBS Hongkong sold 7.5 percent interest each in the bank to international investors. Through the sale, the SM Group through SMIC and Multi-Realty Development Corp. and DBS Hongkong fetched roughly $25 million each from the sale of their respective shares or a total of $50 million.

Sources told the INQUIRER that the Sy group has yet to finalize plans on what to do with the $25 million in proceeds from the sale of the BDO shares last year.

Smallcap World Fund Inc., an American mutual fund, earlier bought a 2.86-percent stake in BDO for P63 [illegible] million

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2005
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
LIFESTYLE
C1
For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback:
Inquirer life name/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Discover gold.
Chocolate Sylvannas

BREAST cancer survivor Sr. Mary Fidelis Arambulo

Spreading the gospel of vegetarianism

Nuns promote prevention, not just early detection, in the fight against the Big C

By Allison W. Lopez

SHE survived four major operations, six court cases and a swarm of young kids and teenagers in her old school.

But with a big dose of prayers and a sprinkling of humor, Sr. Mary Fidelis Arambulo now fights to survive the Big C. Her main weapons? Fruits and vegetables.

"*Wala na akong* headlights," cheerfully says the 65-year-old former principal who lost her left breast to cancer in 1984, and the right one in 2002.

Following her bout with cancer, Sister Arambulo turned to natural medicine and vegetarianism. She is now part of a nonprofit group advocating healthy living to *lechon*-loving Pinoys.

During the recent National Cancer Consciousness Week, the new Fruit and Veggie Friends Club vowed to help Filipinos attain better (and longer) lives through plant-based nutrition.

Sister Arambulo is vice president of the club headed by fellow nun, Sr. Fidel Marie Avanzado, a licensed family physician.

NON-DAIRY, soya-based ice cream in different flavors is now available.

Fewer diseases

The group, led by the nuns, aims to spread the benefits of being vegetarian. By eating only fruits and vegetables, Sister Avanzado says fewer Pinoys would suffer from diseases, including cancer.

A 1997 study of the American Dietetic Association and Dietitians of Canada said "appropriately planned vegetarian diets are healthful, nutritionally adequate and provide health benefits in the prevention and treatment of certain diseases."

The American Cancer Society, in its website (www.cancer.org), also said evidence was strong that a diet high in fruits and vegetables could help prevent cancer over a lifetime.

Data from the National Statistics Office showed 37,832 Filipinos died of cancer in 2001. It was the leading cause of death in the country, second only to heart diseases.

Avanzado estimated that vegetarians in the country are less than one percent of the population. But she says the enthusiastic response their club received showed the public's growing interest in vegetarianism.

The club now has more than 100 members from as far as Bataan and Bacolod, including children.

The club's main goal is to educate the public on the benefits of a plant-based diet. Forums and seminars will be held regularly to update enthusiasts on the latest research, or the newest veggie restaurant on the block. The club also teaches them how to make exciting dishes and where to get the freshest greens.

At present, the Fruit and Veggie Friends Club is encouraging restaurants to have at least two vegetarian dishes. Next month, it will launch its own food products—soya ice cream and veggienaise.

Prevention still best

With the help of Sister Avanzado, her friend of almost 40 years, Sister Arambulo was able to say goodbye to her favorites—fried chicken and rare steak.

"I used to eat anything and everything under the sun," she says. Arambulo admits feeling weak at first after making the shift, but when she began telling herself it was good for her health, she was able to make the adjustment in just one week.

Her daily meals usually consist of juice from seven *dalanghita* ("Don't drink it straight, it's too strong") with no ice, plain oatmeal and a banana for breakfast; an apple for *merienda*; veggies, especially young corn, and half cup of rice for lunch; and for dinner, veggies, oatmeal and banana.

Now 15 pounds lighter, the petite nun says she's "okay *na* okay." And aside from feeling lighter and clear-headed, "*Alam ko mabait na ako pero, mas lalo pa akong bumait,*" she says with a giggle.

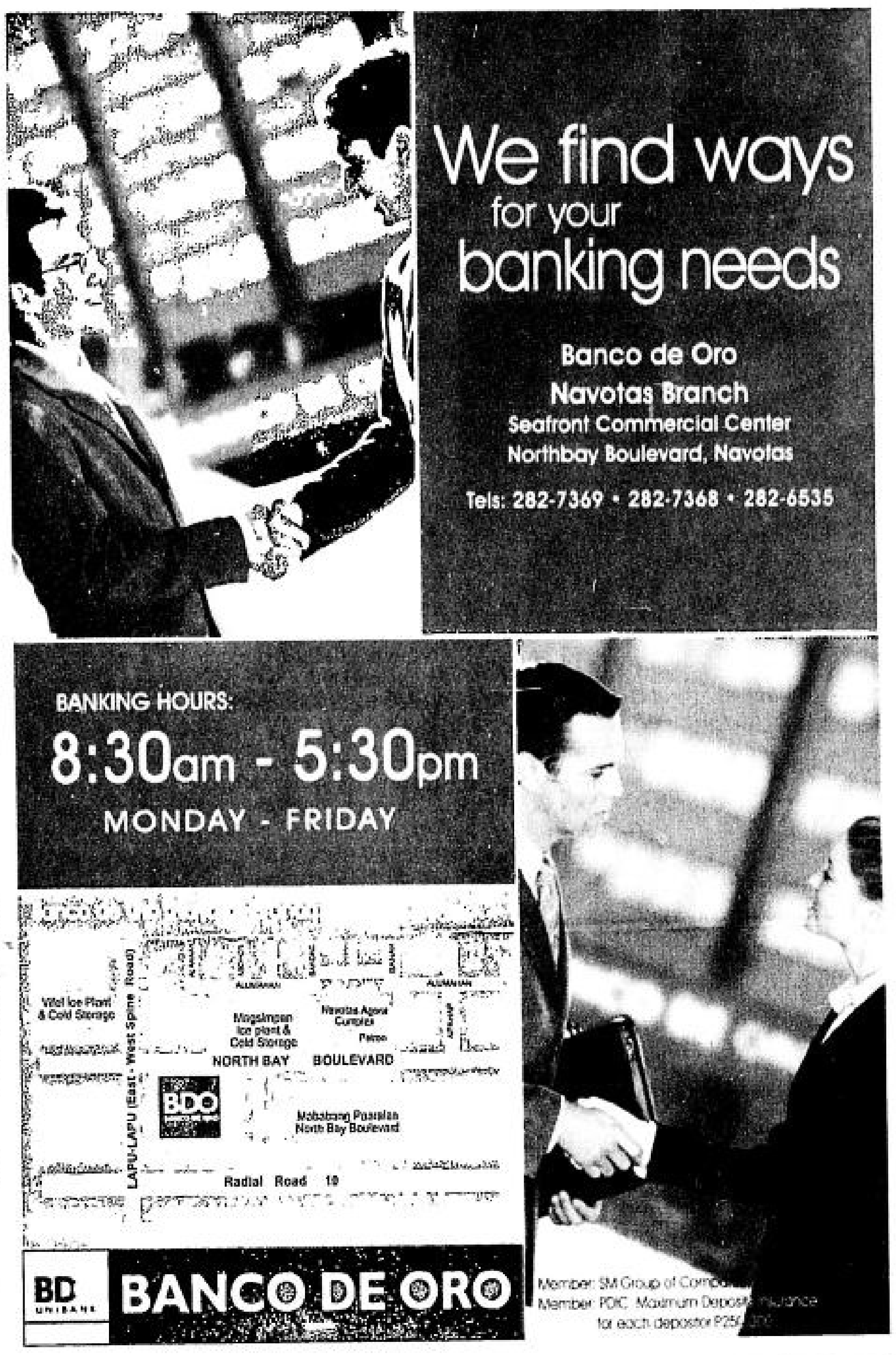
Aside from battling cancer, Sister Arambulo also had to fight six court cases filed against her by her former religious community.

She attributed the recurrence of her cancer, which resulted in the loss of her right breast, largely to all the tension produced by this period in her life, although, in the end, she was vindicated.

Her survival is considered a miracle by her friends, but she has one regret: Not knowing about natural medicine earlier. She says she wouldn't have undergone surgery had she known about natural

SPREADING/ C3

SR. Fidel Marie Avanzado, a licensed physician, is president of Fruit and Veggie Friends Club.


We find ways
for your
banking needs

Banco de Oro
Navotas Branch
Seafront Commercial Center
Northbay Boulevard, Navotas

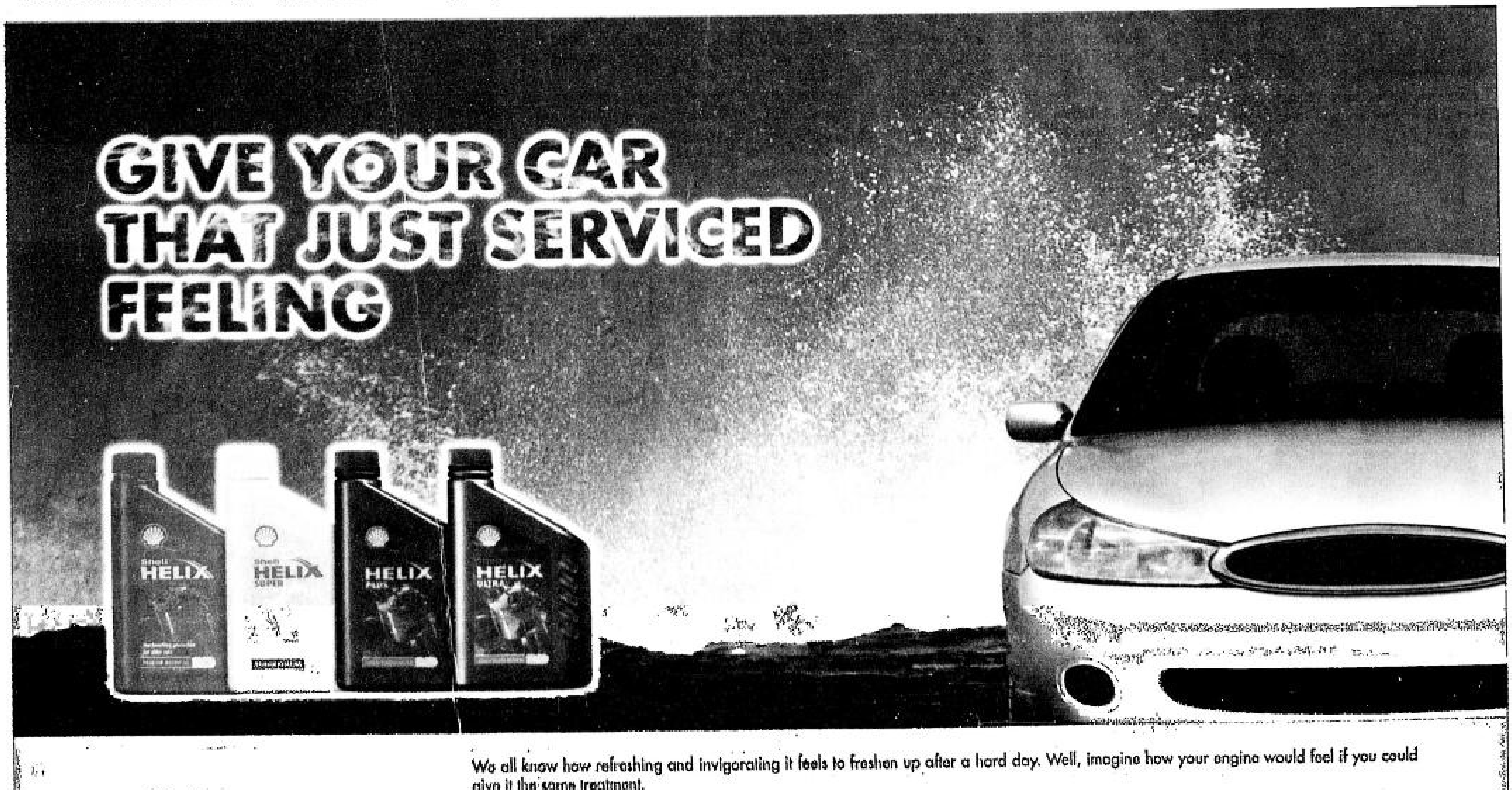
Tels: 282-7369 • 282-7368 • 282-6535

BANKING HOURS:
8:30am - 5:30pm
MONDAY - FRIDAY

Vitel Ice Plant & Cold Storage
Magsimpan Ice plant & Cold Storage
Navotas Agora Complex
Petron
NORTH BAY BOULEVARD
BDO
Mabalrang Paaralan North Bay Boulevard
LAPU-LAPU (East - West Spine Road)
Radial Road 10

BD UNIBANK BANCO DE ORO

Member: SM Group of Compa
Member: PDIC. Maximum Deposit
for each depositor P250



We all know how refreshing and invigorating it feels to freshen up after a hard day. Well, imagine how your engine would feel if you could give it the same treatment.

Shell Helix motor oils contain special cleansing agents that actively lock away harmful dirt and deposits and condition your car's engine. Now you can be sure your engine is not just protected but rejuvenated, revitalized and refreshed as well.

For a smoother, quieter drive that lasts right up to your next oil change, choose Shell Helix motor oils.

Shell HELIX Motor oils

www.shell.com.ph

NEW York's super headturner Ciara Sevilla and her steady beau, Philip Zorgani

YEAH, we are here! Boracay Aria's main man Juan Elizalde and his gal, Bianca Araneta, with Patrick Reyno and Bacchus Zulueta

SITTING it out. Marcel Crespo, Chris Esteban, Southern gent JM Rodriguez and my tequila buddy, Carlo Antonio

A Vanity Fair kind of weekend

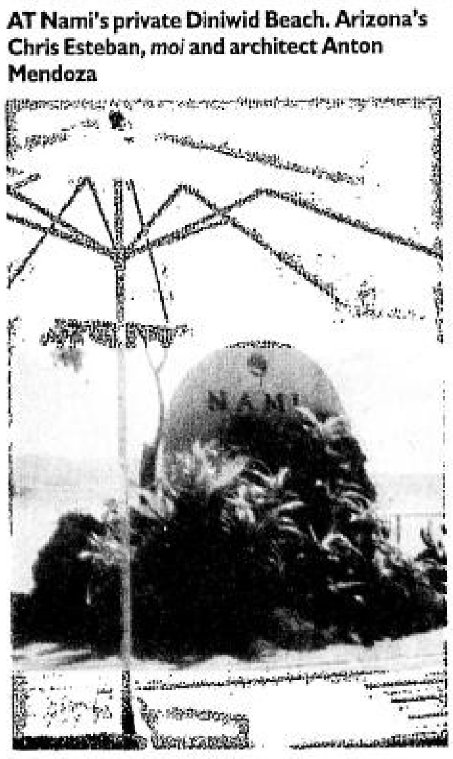
LOVE the Big Apple: Ananda Tinio came all the way from New York.

MY FAVORITE pepperoni persona, Pepper Teehankee

NIGHT owl Lem Carlos

GOURMET par excellence DJ Montano

AT Nami's private Diniwid Beach. Arizona's Chris Esteban, *moi* and architect Anton Mendoza



SUN deck at Nami

IT WAS like one of those fabulous weekends at the Hamptons or Palm Beach that you regularly read about in the chi-chi Vanity Fair and Town & Country magazines.

But in this one, *palanggas*, the sand was whiter, the sea bluer and the parties even more spectacular. *Moi* and Manille's hottest hip partyphiles were hosted by uber-fabulous Nami Resort in Boracay last week.

The occasion: a joint birthday celebration of some of Cosmo Manille's most celebrated faces—Shu Uemura's brilliant brand manager **Tina Tinio**; *moi*; my supah pal **Tim Yap**; mega "starchitect" **Anton Mendoza**; INQUIRER Super!'s writer **Gino de la Paz**; young American eyecatcher **Jackie Cohen Antonio**; Shu Uemura's talented and artistic makeup maven **Xeng Zulueta**, and interior designer extraordinaire **Miguel Rosales**.

CLASS 2005 living it up at Nami: Seven Capricorn and two Aquarius celebrators—architect Anton Mendoza, *moi*, my supah buddy Tim Yap, Shue Uemura gals Tina Tinio and Xeng Zulueta, New York City gal Jackie C. Antonio, interior designer Miguel Rosales and Super's Gino de la Paz

Cliff-hanger

The location—Boracay's answer to the Aman or Four Seasons chains—the stunning, eye-catching cliff-side Nami resort, no less.

Touching down on Caticlan, we were met by Nami people who got us on Nami's luxury van, then on to the private Nami boat that brought us to the island.

Welcoming our pack were super cyber smart **Lex Ledesma** and his sister, **Cheese,** Nami's executive director. The southern Ledesma famille is behind Boracay's new playground of the rich and famous.

Brother and sister personally escorted us to the reception area via the scenic elevator that offers postcard-pretty views of the coastline and surrounding islands.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak Easy Share System**

My pal **Pepper Teehankee** and I shared a room at the top where all we could hear were the sounds of the waves and the birds. Later, Nami made us even more speechless by serving an amazing champagne brunch. We, all 25 of us, dug into an excellent mix of Epicurean delights—pepper steak, tangigue, eggs Benedict, to-die for omelettes of egg white (which I had everyday), chopped mushrooms and tomato, goat cheese and pesto, all washed down with free flowing Moet et Chandon champagne.

Best survival kit

While digesting the yummy meal, our super hosts, Lex Ledesma and, yes, dahlings, super energetic Tina Tinio (who put the whole show together for us), appeared with Nami manager, Southern genius gent, smart and professional **JR Cacho**, who distributed the best survival kit I've ever received: personalized Nami tote bag filled to the brim with luxury goodies. Take note—a pair of hip Havaianas slippers, Shu Uemura toiletries, Polo Blue by Ralph Lauren scents and creams, Kérastase Soleil hair care, and body-hugging Bench Body shirts.

The great part after lunch, was being introduced to our "*Namis.*" No, *palanggas*, not the resort itself. Each guest at the resort gets his/her own personal butler, known as "*Nami*," who is at your beck and call and will attend to your every need. Want your flight reconfirmed or to schedule a massage? Too cold or too hot in the room? Lying on the beach without your sunglasses? Your Nami will take care of the problem, without batting an eyelash.

Nami is the first resort in Boracay (and the Philippines) to offer this fantastic service. My personal "Nami" was **Jun**, the butler everyone could wish for. Every request granted, every need anticipated. Now, that's what I call platinum service, *n'est-ce pas*? (as in, *di bala?*)

Lap of luxury

The rest of the day had some of us dashing to Nami's private Diniwid beach to get a golden tan, while the others took a cool dip in the private jacuzzis on the balcony of our rooms. Others had a sublime two-hour hot stone massage while a soft breeze blew on a wooden deck built right over the water. Cool, huh?

That evening, it was party time for the celebrators and invitees at the resort's beachfront Oyster Bar resto. Only one word could sum up this happening—divine. We gorged on a Nami buffet dinner that Nami's clientele and visitors from other resorts described as (no exaggeration) "the best food you'll ever have on Boracay."

The buffet included Nami's renowned yummy salpicao, fresh and grilled oysters, crab, mushroom tarts and Cemoi truffles, all served al fresco. Our super hosts, twosome Lex Ledesma and Tina Tinio, mingled and made sure our glasses were constantly filled with the bubbly Moet and Hennessy and the food never ran out.

At this Capricorn-Aquarius birthday bash were **Joel Ong**, young sophisticate **Celine Lopez**, **DJ Montano** and **Manny del Rosario**, **Xeng Zulueta**, **JM Rodriguez**, **Carlo Antonio** and Miguel Rosales.

Pals from the US, **Lem Carlos** and **Chris Esteban**; Tina Tinio's New York-based sister, Ananda Tinio, and San Francisco-based **Wilson Fang**; Mandala Spa's **Jove Schrottman**; cutie **Reo Mendoza**; **Ciara Sevilla**; **Bacchus Zulueta** and gorgeous couple **Bianca Araneta** and **Juan Elizalde**, were all there for this one-of-a-kind celebration.

Eight toasts

Apres cocktails and dinner, we all rocked those calories away to **DJ Montano**'s tunes. Toasts were made to all eight of us celebrators one at a time. The Moet never stopped flowing. For all of us, it was definitely one of the best birthday parties we'd ever had—thanks to Nami.

And so followed a few more days of spoiling, soaking in the sun, consuming gallons of the bubbly, multiple massage treatments and, one of the things that count most in life—strengthening old friendships while making new ones to keep.

The weekend was the epitome of—to paraphrase a well-known line—champagne wishes and Nami dreams.

Yes, *palanggas, ka namit gid sa* Nami and we are already dreaming of our return trip.

Nami Boracay is located at Diniwid Beach, Boracay Island. Call (02)8121484, 8121689; fax (02)8120668 or visit www.namiboracay.com.

Special thanks to Lex Ledesma, Tina Tinio, Cheese Ledesma, JR Cacho, Migs Bennett and our fab butler, Nami Jun.

IBIZA it ain't, Nami it definitely is. Celine Lopez and Ogilvy and Mather's achiever, Manny del Rosario

LOVE is in the air. Gene dela Cruz with Joel Ong and his Southern beauty, Carmen Hidalgo

HAVING a super stone massage in a cabana perched on a rock is so cool.

THE GORGEOUS Nami private beach as seen from our balcony

THE NAMI famille: Migs Bennett, Cheese Ledesma, Tina Tinio, Lex Ledesma and super GM JR Cacho

Text messages from the grave

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

READER Julie Hernandez (not her real name) wants to know why she, her husband and the wife of a newly departed friend have been receiving text messages from the cell phone of the dead husband, who we shall call George.

"Is this common? Why doesn't George clarify his vague messages to his wife via a clear dream? Is there a way we can communicate with him?" she asks.

Here's a summary of the extraordinary story Julie told us:

George, a computer and information technology freak, died in a motorcycle accident last Dec. 25, exactly 24 hours after being brought to a hospital. Before he was pronounced dead, his wife received a Christmas greeting from his cell phone at 12:24 p.m. of Dec. 24.

At 12:15 a.m., a few days after his burial, George's wife, Karen, received the following text message from her husband's cell phone: "In death, the relationship we have in this world is not abolished, rather it is for the first time completed."

Quotes from the dead

On Jan. 14, while sending a text message to her bereaved friend, Julie received at 10:30 p.m. another quote from George's cell phone. It read: "Worry is the misuse of imagination," without a period.

Julie called Karen to ask if she sent text messages using her husband's cell phone. Karen was crying, wondering what on earth her friend was talking about. Karen said, "I took out the SIM (subscriber's information module) card of George's phone, so our son can use it."

At 12:15 a.m., Julie received another message from George: "When you keep the Lord in your heart, there is nothing to fear about in your life. Things will come as the Lord has planned."

Julie woke up her husband to tell him what happened. He believed it was all Karen's doing and went back to sleep. Julie immediately called Karen, who was awakened by her call. She asked her friend to call her late husband's cell number. It was out of reach.

At 5:05 a.m. that day, Julie's husband received the same message from George. Two other friends received the same message at past midnight from George's cell phone. Karen informed Julie that she received another message from her husband's number about "sunrise," but her daughter inadvertently erased all incoming messages that morning.

Who sent message?

When Julie went to Karen's house at 6 p.m. to pick up her daughter, who was playing with Karen's kids, Julie received a message in her cell phone from Karen's phone while they were talking to each other. But Karen wasn't holding her cell phone!

The message read: "George: julie naghelp pala si beth kay gi2x." Beth is the name of Julie's daughter and Gigi is the nickname of George's third child.

At the time Karen supposedly sent the message, her phone was lying beside the landline away from her while she and Julie talked. They replied to Karen's message number of Karen and it was received by her cell phone. They also called the same number and Karen got it all right. So, who forwarded that message?

"Is there an explanation for all these mysterious goings on?" Julie asked.

Not the first

Yes. This is not the first time the newly departed has tried to reach his loved ones through cell phones or some other electronic communication device.

I recall the case several years ago of a murder victim whose wife and two cousins received text messages from his cell phone although the police had already removed its SIM card.

I cannot explain how spirits are able to dial or press keypads to make a call. Of course they don't really do it physically (because they no longer have a body) but, by merely thinking of it, it becomes a reality on the physical plane, just like what happens in telekinesis. Mind over matter is more like it.

Spirits do this, of course, for many reasons. In this case, it is likely that George only wants to show to those he left behind that he is okay where he is or he only wants to greet them. Such manifestations will disappear in time, when the spirit has already adjusted to his new state in the spirit world.

At the time of sudden death, as in this case, the spirit is still in a state of shock. He is still not aware that he is dead and therefore may be seen in his favorite place performing things he used to do when still alive.

George's loved ones should not be afraid. They can communicate with him through a medium or through relatives to whom he often or mostly clearly appears. The messages he sent were assurances to the living that he was quite all right and they should not worry about him.

If such messages continue after several months, then something must be done to appease the spirit, otherwise, he cannot rest in peace. He will become earthbound, unable to move on to the higher planes in the spirit world.

Address letters to this column to Prince Plaza I, 106 Legazpi St., Legazpi Village, Makati City. Call 8107245 or 8926806. E-mail jlicacuo@edsamail.com.ph. Visit my website at http://jlicauco.shorturl.com. Listen to my dzMM radio program 6-8 p.m. every Sunday.

Spreading the gospel . . .

From page C1

medicine.

Today she takes several plant-based supplements to keep her strong.

No guarantee

Going vegetarian alone would not guarantee a cancer-free life, clarifies Sister Avanzado. Other lifestyle factors such as stress might also contribute to the development of the disease. But prevention is still better than early detection, she says.

"They used to say that when there's early detection and treatment of cancer, then the chance of controlling it (was greater). But early detection means the disease is already there. (That is why) prevention is really more important," says Avanzado.

A vegetarian for 10 years now, Sister Avanzado claims she has never been sick since.

"Even before that, I already lessened my meat intake. Later, when I found out how important vegetable and fruit eating was, I got hooked."

"We put up the club to really encourage as many, if not all of our people, to become vegetarians and fruitarians. It's really a big leap," she adds.

Avanzado notes it's not that hard to shift to vegetarianism now that the market is teeming with substitutes for meat such as tofu or soybean curd, and *seitan*, a form of wheat gluten.

Though it would seem costly at first make the shift, hospitalization would certainly be more expensive, she points out.

For her part, though Sister Arambulo says she's a living testimony of how fruits, and veggies can make life better, it was her spirituality above all that pulled her through in her struggle with cancer.

"Never lose hope. Affirm yourself every day. The best way to face cancer is to get in touch with yourself, and put God in the center."

The Fruit and Veggie Friends Club's new office at 59-C Salvador St., Loyola Heights, QC, opens on the second week of February. Call 7506474, fax 7518343, e-mail fruitveggiefriendsclub@yahoo.com or visit their website at http://fruitandveggie.epinoy.com

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE "SCARRED"

A NOTICEABLE SCAR ON THE FACE OR ONE WHICH RESTRICTS YOUR MOVEMENT CAN OFTEN LEAD TO PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS. Scarred people find it hard to accept the fact that they suddenly look different. Their self-confidence is affected. They hide the scar as best as they can. It is even possible for scarred people to become withdrawn and to deliberately avoid contact with others.

A scar however, is the body's reaction to close a wound. It differs from the surrounding skin. Hairs, sebaceous glands and sweat glands do not regenerate in scar tissues. As it contains less collagen, scars may shrivel, harden and shrink inwards. Scar tissues are not replenished as well as other tissues. It also contains less water.

SOME SCARS CAUSE PROBLEMS. They may become atrophic scars ("depressed" scars), hyperthophic scars (bulging scars) or, keloidal scars (forms long after the wound has healed and continues to grow over the wound and onto the healthy skin like claws of a crab).

VARIOUS TREATMENT OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE FOR REMOVING SCARS. Among them is treating the scar tissue with a special cream or gel like CONTRACTUBEX. It contains extract cepae, heparin sodium and allantoin. Contractubex helps heal both recent and old scars. Studies (Wufroth, Majewski & Chadzynska, Weisman, Janicki, et al.) show Contractubex supports normal wound healing; prevents prolonged inflammation; improves inflammation signs such as reddening, swelling and pain; inhibits abnormal scar tissue formation; reduces irritation in the scar area; and improves scar elasticity. Rubbing or massaging Contractubex over the scar, three to four times a day, for at least 1-2 minutes each application, yielded favorable results (for recent scars, rub gently; for older scars, rub vigorously).

IT IS IMPORTANT TO CARE FOR THE SCAR TISSUE RIGHT FROM THE START. By keeping it soft and supple you will have a greater chance of making the scar smooth, elastic, resistant and much less obvious. It is important to protect it from external irritation and drying out.

OTHER IMPORTANT REMINDERS Avoid exposure of the scar to intense sunlight, UV rays, sun beds, saunas and cold. Use a high factor sunscreen product on the scar when outdoors. Avoid wearing tight clothes which can rub scarred skin. Particularly protect scars located near bones (e.g. elbow, shin, ankle). Be careful not to injure scar tissue again. This makes the chances of healing less favorable.

For more information, please consult your doctor or email contractubex@organon.ph Text 09178523350 or call (632) 8177638.

Contractubex® Gel
Specific treatment for scars
scars
In other cases use Contractubex®

SAY GOODBYE TO DARK SCAR FOREVER!
Finally... A dark scar lightening that works IN JUST 7 DAYS
also available: underarms whitening pimples/acne remover face whitening body whitening
CALL ME NOW... JULIA
T(02)4118319
T(02)4143082
TO ORDER BY MAIL TEXT TO:
09173787955

BLOOD CLOT leads to killer STROKE & HEART ATTACK!
TUNAWIN ANG BARA!
MAG-PLASMIN, THE BLOOD CLOT DISSOLVER
THE IDEAL SUPPLEMENT IF YOU HAVE:
- DIABETES
- HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE
- HIGH CHOLESTEROL
- HEART DISEASE
- STROKE
- OBESITY
- A STRESSFUL LIFESTYLE

NEW PACK
100% NATURAL
Lumbrokinase 250mg
PLASMIN CAPSULES
APPROVED BY USFDA AND BFAD FR 39851
Available at all mercury drug & other leading drugstores. For inquiries about product and dealer promo, please call Hotline Nos. (02)8942832, (02)8942867 or 0919-6250944 or email plasmin_inquiry@yahoo.com.

PATIO PACIFIC
Boracay

Pink Patio Resort
turns over a new leaf at fifteen.
Experience Patio Pacific's
tropical island paradise
in Boracay.

12/F Multinational Bancorp Centre, 6805 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Telephone: 845 2222 to 27
Email: sales@patiopacificboracay.com • Website: www.patiopacificboracay.com

REFRESHING CAR CARE TIP FOR THE DAY

Your car's fuel filter keeps debris and other deposits from entering your engine when the gas burns. A clogged fuel filter can affect engine performance, fuel efficiency and can lead to more serious problems. As your car gets older, change your filter more often to prevent build-up and corrosion.

Brought to you by Shell Helix. Give your car that just serviced feeling.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Guide to healthier, happier year

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

IT'S TIME to enlighten the many who have questions, questions, questions about health, beauty and well-being.

I hope these tidbits of information can serve as your guide so you can look forward to a healthier, happier year ahead.

Should I take virgin coco oil? And just how much should I take? Please suggest a creative way of taking it.

The coconut is considered the tree of life. Known for centuries as a miracle food with antiviral and antibacterial properties, the virgin oil derived from the coconut (the oil is not heated in the process of extraction) is regarded as a powerful healing tool.

Assuming your source of virgin coco oil (VCO) is reputable, the recommended daily dose is 1-3 tbsp before a meal. However, if you experience a "diarrhea-like" effect, you may reduce the dosage to one tablespoon.

Note that drinking coconut milk is one pleasant way of taking VCO (1½ c of milk provides three tbsp of oil).

Fruit Smoothie

Combine one glass of fresh coconut milk with fruit (your choice of melon, strawberry, banana, etc.) in a blender. If you want it to have the consistency of a shake, freeze the fruit before tossing it into the blender. This gives you the equivalent of 3½ tbsp of oil. You may also mix it with your cereal.

What's the latest on fish oil supplements?

Rich in omega-3 fatty acids, DHA and EPA, fish oil (from tuna, salmon, mackerel swordfish and others) directly benefits the heart. In the recent past, concerns were raised about the possibility of contaminated fish being used in popular capsules and supplements. ConsumerLab.com tested fish oils for polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) and mercury (two top pollutants) and got negative results.

But better consult your physician if you are planning to take supplements.

(Reference: O, The Oprah Magazine, January 2005)

How can I change my eating lifestyle?

Simply do it.

- Make up your mind, then stick to your decision.
- Raise an army—of allies, that is. Get your family, friends, officemates involved. Your support group should keep you diligent and disciplined.
- Transform your regular grocery list into a wellness checklist. Good nutrition should be at the top of your mind. Before reaching out for that can of ice cream or bag of chips, ask yourself: "Do I really need this?"
- Pack a safe snack bag to work. Include fruits and whole wheat bread.
- Exercise.
- Eat the right food. Less meat, more veggies should get you started on the right path.

Does mood effect health? If so, how do I overcome my depression?

In his book, "The Heart of the Soul," Gary Zukav explains how all emotion is physical. In short, your feelings have the power to manifest as discomforts—and, later, pain and illness.

So you want an infusion of joy in your life like everyone else?

- Let go of your anger, pain, bitterness. If you insist on holding on to those negative emotions, eventually your immune system will be compromised.
- Keep busy—whether with household chores, church activity or office work.
- Practice loving yourself a little more by not being judgmental and critical.
- Learn how to meditate. Just 10 minutes in the morning and evening will calm your mind and spirit. Meditation can put you in a complete state of relaxation eventually allowing you to find inner peace.

Practice easy, slow breathing. Sit comfortably, close your eyes and try to think of nothing. Embracing your silence for five minutes daily is an excellent way to start.

What is the best diet you can recommend for gradual weight loss?

You said it—gradual is best. Although diet fads may seem appealing, their long-term effects on the body can compromise your health. Moderation is still the best diet of all.

Eat everything from the food groups (vegetables/fruits, carbohydrate, protein, dairy, fat/oils) in moderate but not equal portions. Try to increase your intake of vegetables and fruits from 25 percent of your daily intake to 50 percent. Remember that the diet that will give permanent results is one combined with exercise.

May I have a beauty regimen for the skin?

Exfoliation is one of my favorites. You can do a daily facial scrub with sugar and VCO, olive (for dry skin) or lite baby oil (for oily skin). Rinse with cool water afterwards.

Love and light!

VCO
COCO MILK

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Green tea aids in weight loss

DSM Nutritional Products has developed a compound called Teavigo, a natural and highly purified extract from green tea, that can help in weight loss.

It contains epigallocatechin gallate (EGCG), a substance in green tea that increases the body's rate of burning calories. Studies tend to show that Teavigo helped significantly in inhibiting the formation of fat cells.

Teavigo contains the major active health component of green tea in pure form. It is a natural compound with a purity level of 95 percent. Enriching products with Teavigo does not change taste and color and does not leave residues or sediments in liquids or solid foods.

Fortified milk helps protect kids from pneumonia

MILK fortified with a specific combination of nutrients may help protect children against pneumonia and other acute respiratory infections (ARI).

This was found by the world's first-ever large-scale clinical trial on fortified children's milk conducted by a team of internationally known researchers led by child nutrition expert Dr. Sunil Sazawal. Over 600 children received for over 12 months milk with and without Nutri-Careä.

It is estimated that most children under five years of age get ARI each year primarily because of pollutants.

Though usually short in duration, the World Health Organization estimates that the disease causes nearly four million deaths each year. Some 1.9 million of the fatalities are children.

Parents fear most pneumonia, a severe chest infection that is the leading cause of sickness and death globally in children under five years of age.

Pneumonia, like most respiratory infections, usually starts with mild symptoms that require no treatment. If the symptoms worsen, the child must immediately be brought to a doctor.

Good nutrition is a good way to build up children's immunity and reduce the frequency of infections. A healthy diet should include a variety of foods that will meet the energy and nutritional requirements of a child. Children should get growing up milk powder suited for the specific needs of every stage of growth and development.

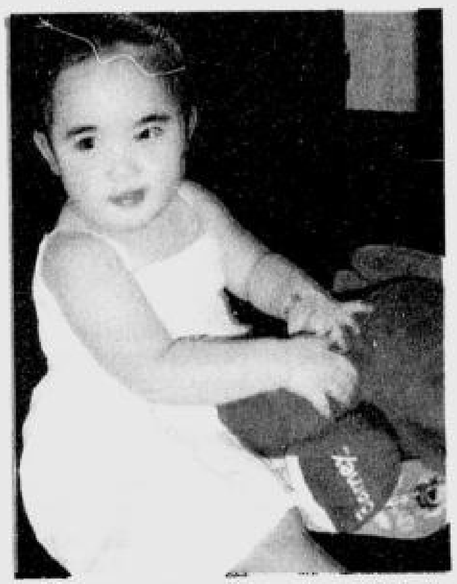
The fortified milk used in the global study was Anchor 1+ with Nutri-Careä, a growing-up milk powder containing vitamins and minerals formulated for children aged 1-4.

The study proved that milk with Nutri-Careä was more effective in protecting against ARIs compared to milk powder without the fortification. It was also found that children who drank Anchor 1+ with Nutri-Careä were less likely to get severe ARI.

New Zealand Milk, makers of ANCHOR 1+ with Nutri-careä, supported the research. Rebecca Cannan, global nutrition research manager for New Zealand Milk, said they wanted to reassure consumers and healthcare professionals that their health claims were fully substantiated by thorough clinical research.

Nutri-careä is a complex bundle of vitamins and minerals

including vitamins A, C and E. It also has iron, zinc and selenium.



FORTIFIED milk, like Anchor I + with Nutri-Care, has been clinically proven to reduce incidence of childhood pneumonia.

MEDICard

Take Charge Doc!

Dr. Nicky S. Montoya

Take Charge Doc! is your weekly question and answer guide on general health issues and illnesses. MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. And in a common thrust with the campaigns of the government, Take Charge Doc! parallels its features on the Calendar of Health Events of the Department of Health.

How much exercise do we really need for a healthy heart?

There are clear benefits from exercise if done 30 to 45 minutes, 3 times a week or more. Objectively, exercise is measured in METS (metabolic equivalent of 3.5 ml of oxygen consumed per kilogram body weight). Examples of common activities and their corresponding METS are: walking at a rate of 2 mph = 2.5, playing golf with cart = 2.5, ballroom dancing = 2.9, riding a bike = 3.5, calisthenics = 4, playing golf without a cart = 4.4, walking at a rate of 4 mph = 4.5, a tennis doubles match = 5, walking at a rate of 5 mph = 8, aerobic dance = 6 and jogging for 10 minutes = 10.2. Individuals who are capable of higher METS are in a better cardiovascular health status.

Safety is as important as the effectiveness of an exercise, therefore exercise only when you are feeling well. Refrain from vigorous exercise soon after eating. Drink fluids regularly and adjust exercise intensity to the weather condition (slower pace in hot weather). Wear proper clothing and know your physical limitations. Lastly, when exercising, start slowly and progress gradually—**DO NOT OVER EXERCISE.**

Cardiologist **Dr. Jorge Admiral Sison** answers this week's feature question on exercise. Dr. Sison is our accredited medical provider at Medical Center Manila. He joined MEDICard in 1990 and has been in practice of his profession for more than 18 years now. Dr. Sison finished Medicine at the University of Santo Tomas in 1977. Then in 1983, he took up residency training for a specialization in Internal Medicine. In 1995 he finished his subspecialty training for Cardiology. MEDICard members may visit him for consultations at Medical Center Manila, Room M24, every Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 am to 12 noon and on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4 pm to 6 in the evening.

BE HEARD AND BE READ. Write to DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA (c/o *TAKE CHARGE DOC!*) or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for inquiries on health matters.

MEDICard is the first HMO in the Philippines and the whole Asia Pacific Region to be ISO CERTIFIED

MEDICard PHILIPPINES, INC.: 9/F Sagittarius Bldg., H.V. dela Costa St. Salcedo Village, Makati City 1227
TRUNKLINE: 867-2020 FAX NO.: 894-5720 810-3866 TEXT: Key in MEDICARD and send to 2344 (Globe and Touch Mobile) or to 4627 (Smart and Talk N Text) INDIVIDUAL/FAMILY SALES: 818-2161 CORPORATE SALES: 848-0452 848-0456 848-0451 E-MAIL: inquiry@medicardphils.com feedback@medicardphils.com WEBSITE: www.medicardphils.com

Versatile 'masseuse'

THE OSIM Medic Chair is the world's first massage chair that understands your body's needs to relax.

Designed to help improve blood circulation and build on the benefits of massage, the Osim iMedic chair provides a combination of heat and massage treatment. It uses air massage to relieve tension while heat improves blood circulation in the hip area.

Revolutionary infrared sensory technology helps detect all major 27 acupressure points in the body for a more effective massage.

The iMedic comes with specially designed five healthcare and three well-being massage programs to enhance the relaxing experience. Its unique twin-motor system gives a whole new massage function from the 14 exclusive air bags in the seat and footrest that combines kneading and tapping. The chair also has a comprehensive remote controller with two LCD display screens to control massage programs and functions for an uninterrupted massage session.

The chair is available from Osim, a leading global brand for healthy lifestyle products. Osim is involved in design, product development, marketing and retailing of home health care products. It operates a distribution network of over 250 Osim outlets in Asia, the Middle East and North America.

THE OSIM OS-757 or iMedic chair provides a combination of heat and massage treatment.

4th Pre-Need Consciousness Week

'Improving Lives, Building Futures'

In its four decades of serving Filipinos, the pre-need industry has successfully inculcated in the populace an attitude of preparedness - instilling in them the values of foresight, responsibility and planning for their families.

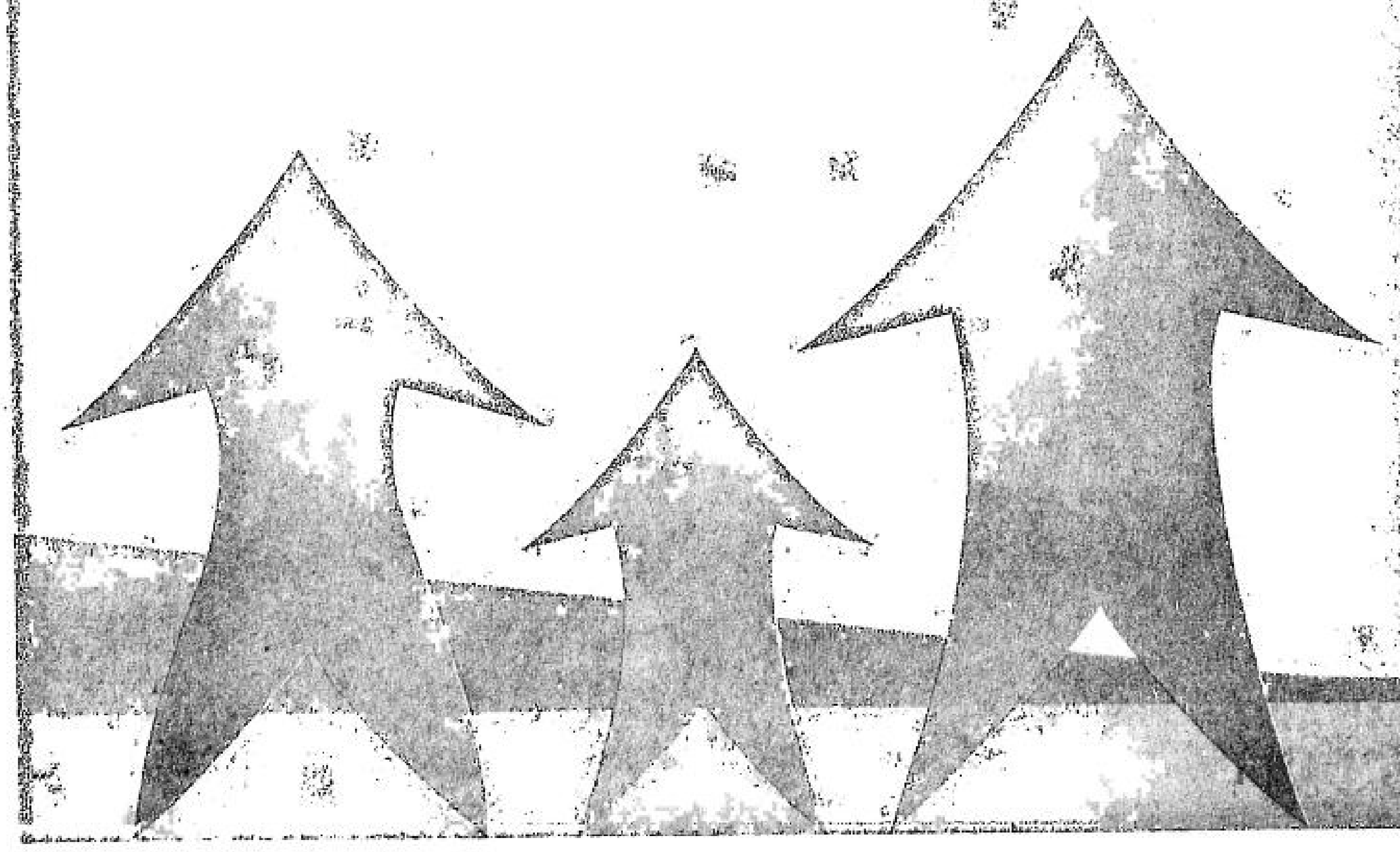
[illegible]

Pre-need planning has indeed become an integral part of the way of life of Filipinos as it has taken care of their future by providing the various ingenious solutions and products to address their educational, pension, accident, memorial security among other anticipated needs. Indeed, throughout the years, pre-need has given Filipino families good education for their children, comfortable retirement, time to grieve, and, more importantly, peace of mind.

In these challenging times when families already find it hard to take care of day-to-day needs, more and more Filipinos have found pre-need planning a necessity. Proper management of available funds to secure future financial requirements is paramount.

To make this formidable task easier, the Philippine Federation of Pre-Need Plan Companies, Inc. (PFPPCI) once more gathers its members in celebrating the Pre-Need Consciousness Week from February 1 to 6, 2005. The celebration provides the industry an opportunity to reach out to the public to heighten awareness of pre-need planning in the hope of spreading the good news of financial preparedness to a wider spectrum of the public. More importantly, the celebrations is an opportunity for member companies to step back from being competitors and, instead, unite as a single industry family and together explore various means and ways to deliver better and more relevant services to customers.

The theme of this year's celebration, "Improving Lives, Building Futures," aptly describes the Federation member companies' relentless effort in carrying out the very mission by which the industry itself is founded - that is, to make people's lives better by bringing them a step ahead of the future.



Messages

I GREET the officers and members of the Philippine Federation of Pre-Need Plan Companies, Inc. on the occasion of its 4th Pre-Need Consciousness Week.

Allow me to congratulate your organization for your efforts to raise public awareness on the importance of pre-need planning. I am pleased to learn that pre-need sales for 2004 registered an increase of 21.49% from last year's figures to a whopping 32 billion in total pre-need sales from January to October of 2004 alone.

This event with the theme, "Improving Lives, Building Futures" celebrates the achievements of the pre-need industry. By investing in sound life, pension and educational plans, our people are assured of security in retirement for themselves and for their families.

I call on you to be a steadfast partner of the government in advancing social development by investing in our country's future. Let us work together to beat the odds and improve the quality of life of our people.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

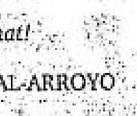
GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission (SEC) joins the Philippine Federation of Pre-Need Plan Companies Inc. in celebrating the 4th Pre-Need Consciousness Week. Our warmest greetings!

The Federation has gone a long way since it started its pre-need consciousness program four years ago. It has succeeded beyond raising the awareness of the public on the importance of securing one's future as the program has moved a steadily growing number of people to buy future plans for themselves and their loved ones. Hand in hand with this positive public response should be the commitment of the pre-need companies to faithfully meet their obligations to the plan-holders as these become due. The SEC, therefore, takes this occasion to once again express its support and guidance to the pre-need industry to better meet the aspirations, dreams and inevitable needs of the plan-holders.

To the officers and members of the Federation as well as to the men and women of the pre-need industry, our congratulations! May the celebration of your fourth pre-need consciousness week further bear fruits toward a secure and better future for Filipinos!

FE B. BARIN
Chairperson
Securities and Exchange Commission



ONCE again, the Philippine Federation of Pre-Need Plan Companies Inc., answers the call to serve the Filipino people in securing life's basic needs. We come together once more to join hands and fuse minds for the growth of our profession, hoping to find new ways of providing better services and benefits to our countrymen.

This year's theme is "Improving Lives, Building Futures." Truly, no other theme captures the cerebral essence of the pre-need profession than this one. We in the pre-need industry continuously and harmoniously strive to give Filipinos a fair share of life's better offerings, giving them a chance to promise and plan better futures for themselves. In the face of economic uncertainty, political instability, and personal struggles, we must continue our work towards helping our countrymen build the ideal quality Filipino living.

With our combined efforts, I am confident that the pre-need industry, the Philippine Federation of Pre-Need Plan Companies Inc. in specific, can make that ideal a reality. Let us once again rise as one united force in helping to build a better Philippines.

Congratulations and *mabuhay!*

ATTY. JUAN MIGUEL M. VAZQUEZ
President
Philippine Federation of Pre-Need Plan Companies, Inc.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Strengthening the Pre-Need Industry

By Marlet D. Salazar

FOR many years, the Philippine Federation of Pre-Need Plan Companies Inc. (PFPPCI) has figured prominently in the development and progress of the pre-need industry in the country.

For one, the Federation has been very active in dialoguing with the Securities and Exchange Commission on issues vital to the industry, thereby conducting itself as a partner of the SEC in regulating its ranks. This umbrella association comprises businesses which are into marketing of any or all of the three categories of pre-need plans: pension, education, and memorial plans.

The pre-need industry began 38 years ago with the selling of memorial plans (i.e. funeral plans). Ten years later, the first pension plans were introduced. Then, three years after that, the first education plan-selling company went into business.

PFPPCI has also been helping the SEC in working out transitory provisions to ensure the smooth implementation of new rules and circulars.

Atty. Juan Miguel M. Vazquez, president and chief executive officer of Permanent Plans, Inc. and PFPPCI president, meantime, reveals that the focus now of efforts is the pre-need code. He explains, "As a result of our work with our regulators, we have good rules in place. Once we're done with the pre-need code, we will then have both rules and laws in place to govern our industry."

The Industry Association

PFPPCI's most important role is to knit together pre-need companies as one industry family, united in their mission to improve the lives of Filipinos and be a major contributor to the country's economy.

Jose Alberto T. Alba, president of Prudentialife Plans, Inc., shares that the federation has been issuing guidelines to its members as tools for improvement. "More prudent actuarial assumptions and rationalization of commission structures introduced before have helped companies strengthen their financial standings," he reports.

Also, to raise people's awareness of the benefits of pre-need plans and further tap into the growing market for pre-need, the association carries out advertising, public relations, and other forms of information dissemination. The Pre-need Consciousness Week is a part of this public awareness campaign.

"Last year, we had a radio segment every week to discuss problems our planholders faced," Vazquez said. The federation helpdesk also strictly monitors planholder complaints.

Jesus G. Hofilena, president of Philam Plans, clarifies, however, that, "Although advertising and public relations activities also help, the pre-need industry's best advocates are really the many men and women who go out daily and reach out to as many people as possible in explaining the value of pre-need."

"It is our sales associates who play a dominant role in educating the public on the wisdom of pre-need planning and value of saving for the future," Alba concurs.

Big Contributor to Nation-Building

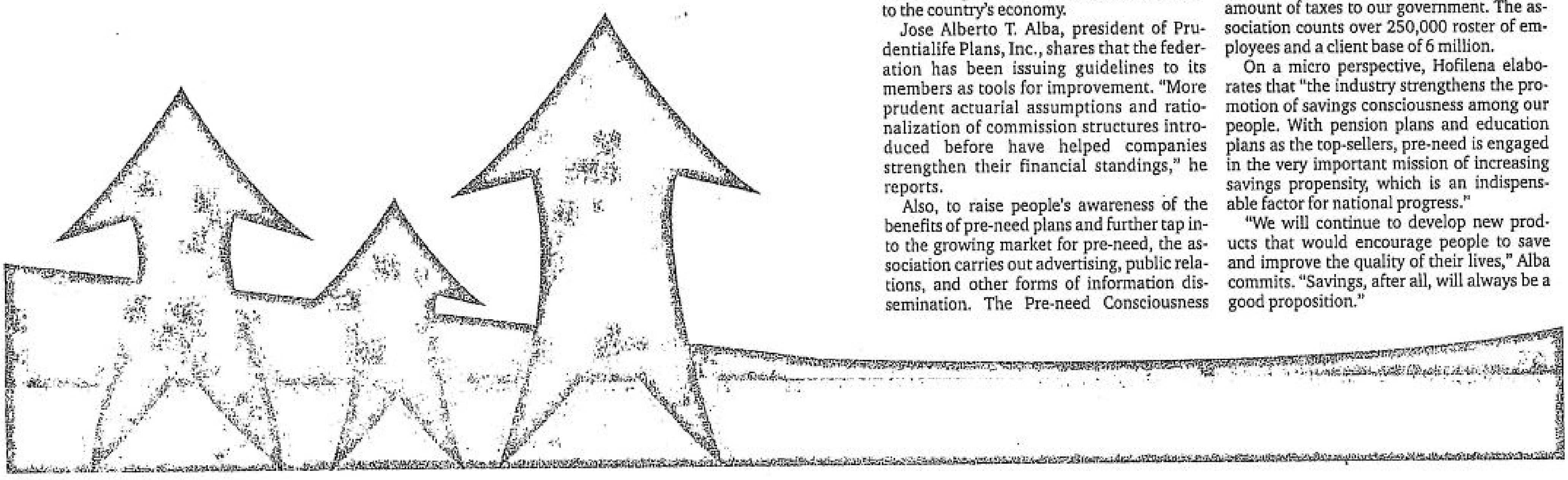
Hofilena summarizes the industry's contribution to the economy: "The pre-need industry is a major source of long-term domestic capital for the Philippines. With a combined trust fund value of over P60 billion in 2004, these resources contribute to nation-building as a significant amount of these funds - more than 50 percent - is invested in government securities."

Atty. Vazquez adds, "All this money is long-term money which can be used to fund long-term investments." The industry, thus, contributes in the development of the capital markets which up to this date is focused on short-term lending.

Aside from mobilizing capital, the industry also provides jobs to thousands of Filipinos nationwide and pays a significant amount of taxes to our government. The association counts over 250,000 roster of employees and a client base of 6 million.

On a micro perspective, Hofilena elaborates that "the industry strengthens the promotion of savings consciousness among our people. With pension plans and education plans as the top-sellers, pre-need is engaged in the very important mission of increasing savings propensity, which is an indispensable factor for national progress."

"We will continue to develop new products that would encourage people to save and improve the quality of their lives," Alba commits. "Savings, after all, will always be a good proposition."



" Alagang Pang-habang Buhay "

PERMANENT
Think Pension. Think Permanent Plans.

Permanent Plans Inc.
addresses the concern for securing a brighter future for the Filipino Family.

A service that goes beyond the boundaries of corporate strategies, is the care that is shown with sincerity and concern.

A service we call. . .

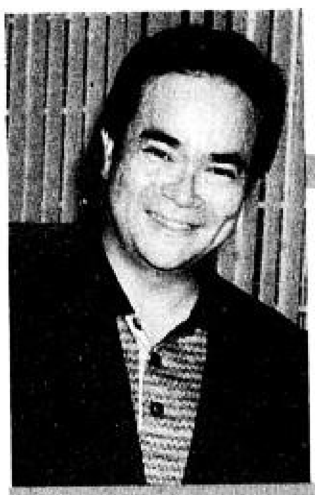
9th Floor, Vicente Madrigal Building, 6793 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel. No.: 891-5717 • Fax No.: 894-3959 E-mail: www.permanentplans.com

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

UNITAS awardees

To institutionalize good corporate governance within its ranks, the Philippine Federation of Pre-Need Plan Companies, Inc. (PFPPCI), has taken to task promoting adherence to the organization's Code of Practice and Ethics whose essence has first been underscored in the Federation's preamble: "To maintain the confidence and trust of the public through efficient and diligent compliance of its commitments to sound, ethical, and accepted business principles." The Federation's battle cry, UNITAS - which stands for U-nity, N-obility of purpose, I-ntegrity, T-rust, A-ction, and S-ervice, has been adopted to reiterate these principles that the organization wishes to uphold.

The Federation also marks every year with the selection of 'UNITAS' awardees - exemplary individuals whose achievements, professionalism and service have been of the highest standard leading to their exceptional contribution to and support of the pre-need industry.



The Federation also marks every year with the selection of 'UNITAS' awardees - exemplary individuals whose achievements, professionalism and service have been of the highest standard leading to their exceptional contribution to and support of the pre-need industry.

This year's UNITAS Awards goes to two deserving pre-need professionals, Atty. Juan Miguel M. Vazquez and Mr. Jose Gonzales.

JUAN MIGUEL 'MIKE' M. VAZQUEZ

For the energy and dynamism he has shown in leading the Federation for three unprecedented successive terms as president, thereby forging more cooperative relationships between the pre-need industry, its regulator and legislators for the long term financial benefit, higher savings consciousness and capital market development of the Filipino people.

JOSE 'PEPITO' M. GONZALES JR

For his invaluable contributions to the unification and development of a potent Pre-Need Industry Federation as a highly respected prime mover in the pre-need business. His selflessness, devotion to duty, and amiable personality have stamped an indelible mark in our organization and will serve as our model as we strive to continue our mission to make more Filipinos conscious of the value of pre-need planning for a more secure financial future.

Pangarap
PENSION PLAN
PHILAM PLANS

Abutin Mo ang Magandang Kinabukasan sa halagang ₱28 lang!

Sa P28 lang bawat araw, masisiguro mo ang magandang kinabukasan ng iyong pamilya - sa **PHILAM PLANS PANGARAP PENSION PLAN!** Kumpleto ang mga features ng PHILAM PLANS PANGARAP kaya angkop sa inyong pangangailangan!

TAPAT: Garantisado at sigurado ang iyong kinabukasan dahil sagot ka ng AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL GROUP (AIG), PHILAMLIFE at PHILAM PLANS, lalo sa pinagkakatiwalaan at nangungunang financial companies sa Pilipinas at sa buong mundo!

ABOT-KAYA: Sa P28 lamang bawat araw, may maisasantabi ka na sa kinabukasan ng mga minamahal mo!

SULIT: Sa sapat na halaga, protektado ka na at ang iyong minamahal sa buhay!

Tawag agad sa (02) 528-5200, bumisita sa pinakamalapit na Philam Plans Office o hanapin ang inyong tapat na sales counselor.

ANG PANGARAP MO, SAGOT NG PHILAM PLANS!

Nakikiisa sa Pamilyang Pilipino

AIG A Member Company of American International Group, Inc.

PHILAM PLANS

The Philam Group of Companies offers you a full range of financial services: Life and General Insurance • Property & Casualty Insurance • Health Care Management
Pre-Need Plans • Savings and Mortgage • Mutual Fund Investments • Property Development • Credit Cards • Business Processing Service • Bancassurance • Financial Advisory Service

UNITAS awardees

The UNITAS honors the invaluable contribution of these remarkable members of the pre-need industry. Their dedication has made an indelible mark, not only on the industry but also on the lives of countless Filipino families. May they serve as shining examples of everything that the Federation and the industry stand for.

ATTY. JUAN MIGUEL M. VAZQUEZ

As president of the Philippine Federation of Pre-need Plan Companies Inc (PFPPCI), Atty. Juan Miguel M. Vazquez is currently the pre-need industry's figurehead, rallying his colleagues to cooperate as industry members while competing with each other as individual companies in delivering the best value to pre-need planholders. Indeed, he is a great believer of the collegial body's principles of UNITAS and competition.

In his forties, Atty. Vazquez has dedicated a great deal of his professional life as president and chief executive officer of Permanent Plans, Inc., Co-founding the company in 1989, Atty. Vazquez has since then grown the business from a company with a mere paid-up capital of P3 million to one of the country's highly capitalized pre-need providers with a hefty paid-up equity of P175 million.

Atty. Vazquez's lustrous academic years include a high school diploma from Lancashire England's Stonyhurst College, and Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with Concentration in Accounting and Finance from Georgetown University in Washington D.C., USA. He pursued further studies at the Ateneo de Manila College of Law, graduating as Salutatorian, no less, and was admitted to the bar in May 1986. A great believer of formal education, he also attended executive programs at the Asian Institute of Management and the University of Michigan.

Of all his contributions and accomplishments in the pre-need industry, Atty. Vazquez is proudest of the fact that, under his leadership, the Federation was able to get member companies to adopt a unified and proactive attitude towards working with government regulators, primarily the Securities and Exchange Commission, and legislators in promulgating rules and regulations to promote, protect and safeguard the welfare and interest of pre-need plan companies and planholders, and, in general, the pre-need industry.

It is by working with the industry regulators and legislators that he sees the industry to have the best rules and laws to guide the industry and protect the welfare of planholders, thereby making pre-need planning's role in nation-building more meaningful.

MR. JOSE M. GONZALES, JR.

Jose "Pepito" M. Gonzales, Jr. has served as Secretary General of PFPPCI for a decade and a half now. And he considers this as his distinct contribution to the pre-need industry.

At 65, he is a veteran of life plans, with his initial foray in the field starting when he served as vice president in Marketing of Provident Memorial Plan, Inc. from 1981 to 1984. He now holds the position of first vice president in Marketing of Prudential Life Plan Group, Inc. (since 1984) and, concurrently, president of La Funeraria Paz (since 2000).

In his much younger years, he had mostly been in the field of sales, marketing and advertising in different industries, that is, except from 1964 to 1975 when he worked as a commercial pilot. Could it be the dare-do of flying which inspired Gonzales to choose a career in the pre-need industry?

Pepito's educational attainments include a Bachelor of Science in Commerce Major in Management earned at the University of the East; special courses in marketing and advertising from the University of San Francisco; and pilot training from the Philippine School of Aviation.

Gonzales believes that the industry can further raise the bar in its services and products by upgrading training programs for its sales people, while focusing on professionalism. Meantime, he wants to see the industry outperform itself in terms of its brand of public service by providing free education to deserving indigent children, what with education plans being the industry top-seller.

This captain of the Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary plans to continue serving as an inspiration to his colleagues in the industry by remaining active in all the undertakings of the Federation that he has faithfully served for a long time.

Plan for a Lifetime

Pension • Education • Memorial

Lifetime PLANS, INC.
A YGC Member

Call 816-0000 to insure your future.

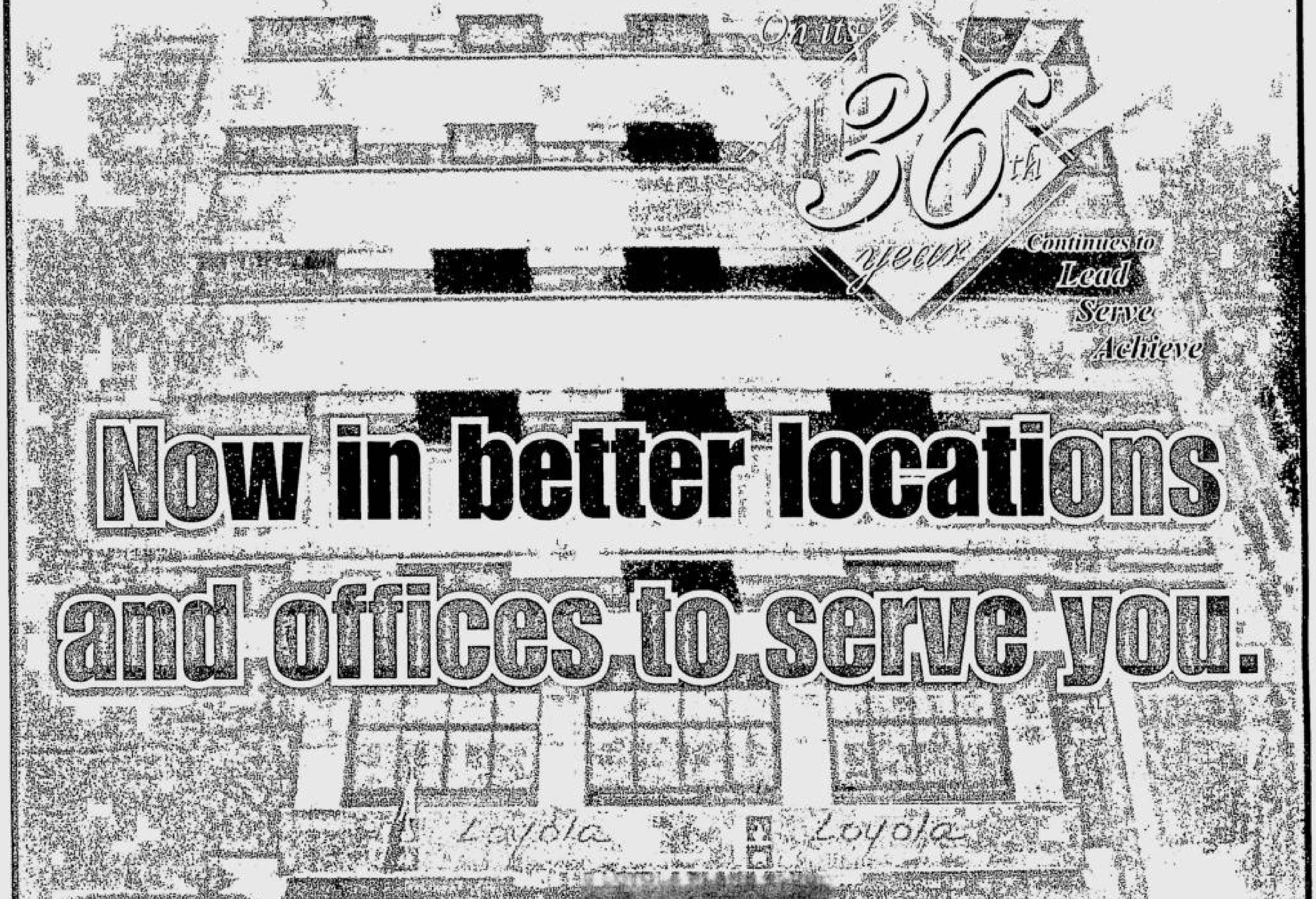
Loyola

LOYOLA PLANS CONSOLIDATED, INC.

On its 36th year

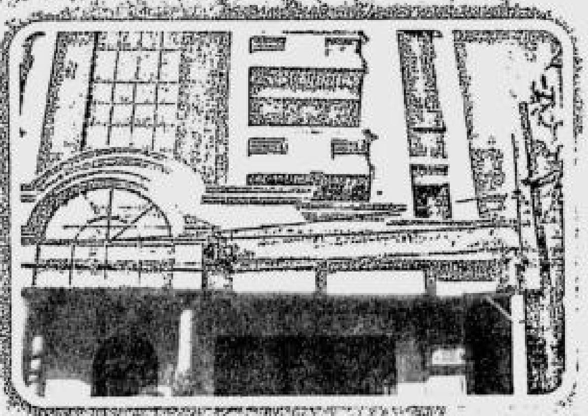
Continues to
Lead
Serve
Achieve

Now in better locations and offices to serve you.



South NCR Regional Office
Unit 24 2nd Flr. The Colonade
132 Legaspi cor. C Palanca Street
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. Nos: (02)813-1055, (02)892-0411

Head Office:
Loyola Plans Building, 849 A. Arnaiz Avenue
Makati City, Philippines
(02) 892-6061 to 65



West NCR Regional Office
1971 Ground Floor
Marc 1 Bldg.
Taft Avenue, Malate, Manila
Tel. No. (02)522-2803

East NCR Regional Office
#33 Karina Bdlg. Shaw Blvd.
San Antonio Pasig City
Tel. Nos. (02)634-6859, (02)634-6824

TEXT us at:

0920-9LOYOLA
(5 6 9 6 5 2)

0917-8519997

Contact us at: **Head office:** (02)813-3714; (02)892-6061 to 65 **Makati:** (02)813-1055 **Manila:** (02)522-2803 **Mandaluyong:** (02)634-6824 **Tomas Morato :(02)722-8171** **Alabang:** (02)809-8467 **Bacoor:** (046)870-2909 **Dagupan City:** (075)523-4295 **San Fernando Pampanga:** (045)961-8269 **Cagayan Valley:** (078)682-7981 **Lucena City:** (042)373-5870 **Legaspi City:** (052)820-6512 **Lapu-lapu City:** (032)340-5912 **Tacloban:** (053)321-4787 **Bacolod City:** (034)434-1261 **Cebu City:** (032)231-5602 **Cagayan de Oro City:** (088)227-8126 **Davao City:** (082)225-3445
5th Floor ORCEL Bldg., Quezon Avenue, Q.C. Tel. No. 924-2879

"THE SECURITIES AND EXCHA[illegible] APPROVED THE ADVERTISEMENT OR DETERMINED IF THIS IS ACCURATE OR COMPL[illegible] REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY CONSTITUTES A VIOLATION [illegible] CODE AND IS CRIMINALLY PUNISHABLE. THE PUBLIC IS [illegible] IMMEDIATELY TO THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION [illegible] INACCURATE STATEMENT"

The Good Life

It is not farfetched to assume that at least once in a person's lifetime, he has encountered a pre-need agent's sales proposition. After all, hundreds of thousands of them are on field every day to convince 'prospects' to plan and invest for their future. It is good to note that, in assisting clients in pre-need planning, these agents have, in the process, built a bright future for themselves and their family. Read on and get to know a sampling of those who have found the good life in pre-need sales.

A goldmine in pre-need selling

THE PRE-NEED business brought prosperity to Darrie Velasco's family

His family used to rent a small house before Darrie Velasco ventured into selling pre-need plans. Now, thanks to income from plan sales, he and his wife not only were able to buy a mansion of a house, but they were also able to invest in a hotel and vacation houses as well.

Darrie entered the field of pre-need sales in September of 1994. Prior to this, he did not expect that selling would be so much fun, looking back especially to the first time he made a sale. From this sale, the pre-need company where he is still employed up to this day helped him make his first investment in a 1,273 sq.m. lot worth P500,000 way back 1995. In that same year, the company issued him an owner-type jeep for his use in client calls.

His consistently excellent sales performance quickly propelled him to the post of business district manager in 1995. And years hence, Darrie has not stopped making steady progress as one of the company's top producers. From his pension plan sales in 1998, he invested again in a 2,200 sq.m. farm lot in Calauan, Laguna which he turned into a sampaguita plantation. Darrie was able to buy a new Honda-CRV on that same year as well.

In 2003, when Darrie was able to record gross sales of P4 million worth of pension products, he invested his commissions in a 477 sq.m. lot, once more, in Calauan where his family's dream house now stands.

His wife, Emilyn, also in the same field, is as passionate as he is when it comes to sales. She was, in fact, first runner-up top producer in their company's 2000 National Sales Convention. It has actually been their tandem which is a significant factor in the success they are enjoying now.

Part of his family's investment which also came from their earnings from pre-need sales was placed in Timeshare Realty, the real estate firm that manages Sunrise Hotel, and other vacation houses in Tagaytay City.

Still, the most important of all the good things the pre-need business has brought to Darrie's family is the good life he and Emilyn were able to give their two lovely daughters, Precious, 22, and Kristina, 15.

Chemist shifts to pre-need to have more time for family

TEACHING people to save has been this former chemist's main incentive for selling

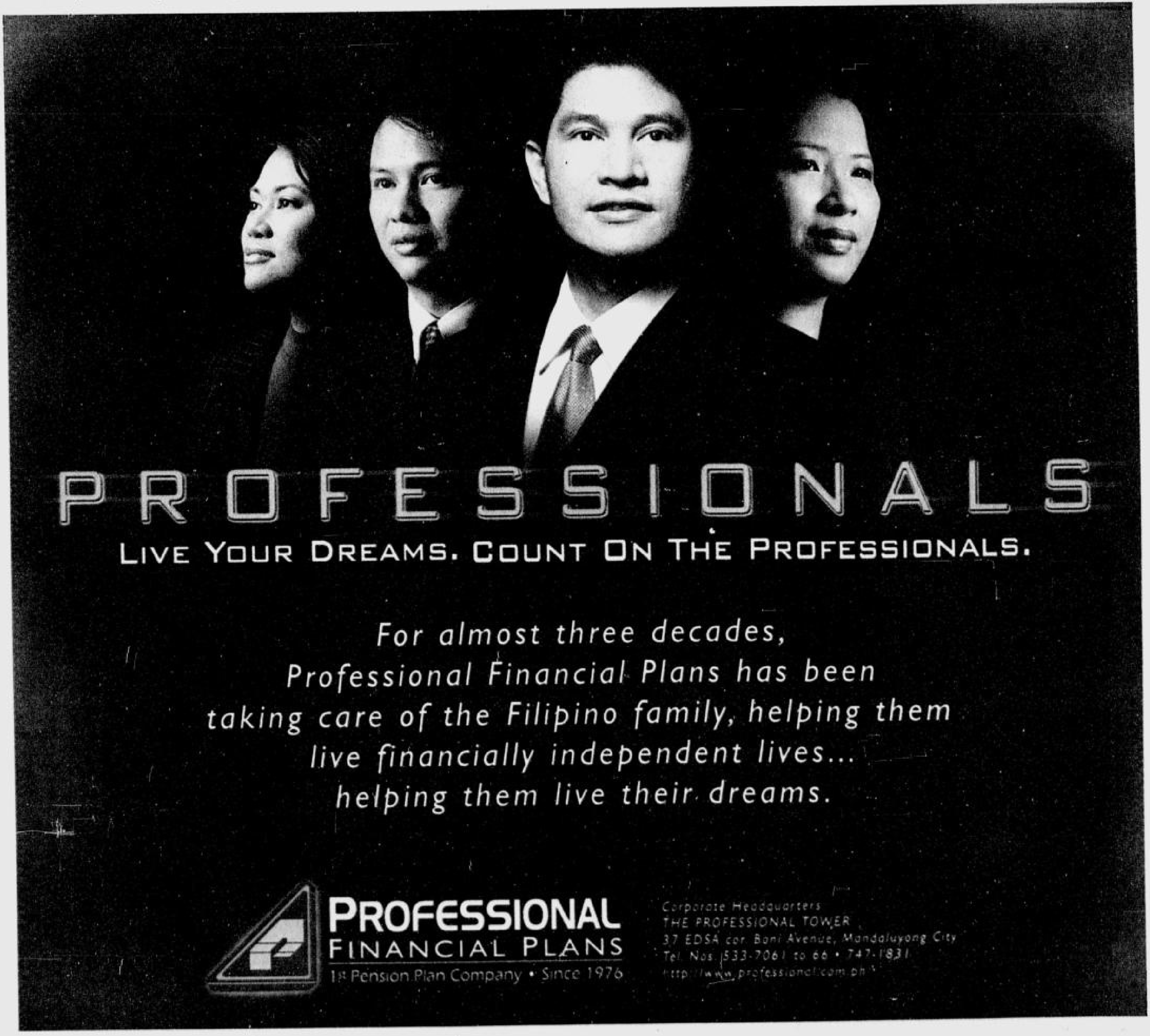
Annie Khan has never considered selling a dream job. After all, her background is that of a chemist. But, all of that changed when she joined the pre-need industry on May 29 of 2000.

Her career shift decision started during her years as a lab analyst, when she found herself struggling to juggle time for work and family. It sort of compelled her to give pre-need selling a try. As part-time job, pre-need selling does not require one to clock in and out of the office.

Fortunately for her, "The pleasant work environment and inspiring people who always motivate me made me love the job and become more productive in the trade."

Indeed, as one of the business associates of a stable pre-need company, Annie has not only found more time for her family, she is also now able to enjoy the commissions, trips abroad and other generous incentives that her company awards her.

However, she says that the knowledge that she is doing a noble job of making people realize the value of saving-up for their future is where her true satisfaction lies.


PROFESSIONALS
LIVE YOUR DREAMS. COUNT ON THE PROFESSIONALS.

For almost three decades,
Professional Financial Plans has been
taking care of the Filipino family, helping them
live financially independent lives...
helping them live their dreams.

PROFESSIONAL
FINANCIAL PLANS
1st Pension Plan Company • Since 1976

Corporate Headquarters
THE PROFESSIONAL TOWER
37 EDSA cor. Boni Avenue, Mandaluyong City
Tel. Nos. 533-7061 to 66 • 747-1831
http://www.professional.com.ph

Mang Rolly quits the police force to be a pre-need sales agent

IF THERE is one commonality in police work and pre-need selling, it is public service

It may be hard to compare the work of a police officer to that of a pre-need agent, but for Roland G. Santos, it is a no-brainer. This is because he has been lucky to have experienced both worlds.

Mang Rolly was a police officer assigned at the Warrant and Subpoena section of the Quezon City police department when a good friend convinced him to join one of the agencies of a renowned pre-need plan company. It was February 1986. Since then, Mang Rolly has not stopped loving what was then his newfound career.

Energized by the need to earn more for his family, Mang Rolly capitalized on his hardworking and persistent nature to be able to perform well in selling pre-need plans. All his efforts paid off when he became agency manager only after his third year in the company. Indeed, his career shift decision has been his wisest decision ever.

If there is one commonality in police work and pre-need sales, it is public service. It is just that a career in pre-need is one kind of public service whose payback is a lot more if one finds the right formula for success. In Mang Rolly's case - it has mainly been his flexibility and sincerity at work, and some stroke of luck.

Finding joy in the pre-need service

A CAREER in pre-need is what this First Lady considers her calling.

It was in 1997 when Mrs. Linda V. Luciano first heard of the pre-need company she now loyally serves. How the company reaches out to their planholders in a very personal way left an impression on her. She told herself that it was exactly the kind of service she wanted for herself and her family, and the kind of service she would like to give others.

Inevitably, Mrs. Luciano went on board the said company, first, as a planholder, and eventually as sales agent.

"I have always been vocal about my desire to be of service," said Mrs. Luciano. "I believe I have found the means to do just that through pre-need selling."

Mrs. Luciano, for one, really takes time to personally meet with her clients, if not for their inquiries and problems, to congratulate them if their plan has matured. She even accompanies her agents in their client visits if possible. "We want our clients to feel that they are very important to us-that we're there to hand-hold them, to support them," she said.

It was probably her experiences as the 'First Lady' of the town where her husband served as mayor which ignited her desire to help others even through the simplest means.

Now an assistant vice president, Mrs. Luciano's branch has been the company's top producer for years. Mrs. Luciano said that there's only one secret to her success in pre-need: "Winning a person's trust and keeping it."

"Ang minamahal mo, ipagkatiwala mo sa Prudentialife."

Ipakita mo ang iyong pagmamahal sa iyong pamilya sa pamamagitan ng Prudentialife Plans. May Life, Pension at Education Plans na bagay sa inyong mga pangangailangan. For peace of mind, secure life and a bright future, mapagkakatiwalaan mo ang Prudentialife.

Ang Prudentialife ay may higit na 11 billion na trust fund, 30,000 sales associates at 1,000 personnel. Bisitahin ang aming mga branches nationwide. Makakasiguro ka na matatag at maayos ang kinabukasan ng iyong pamilya sa Prudentialife.

Prudentialife Plans, Inc.

Ang minamahal mo, ipagkakatiwala mo sa Prudentialife.

Prudential Life Plan Building, 110 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village,
1220 Makati City, Philippines Prudentialife Direct (632) 884-8000
www.prudentialife.com E-mail helpdesk@prudentialife.com
PLPI TEXT HOTLINE 0917-810-PLPI (7574), 0918-970-PLPI (7574)

Sales idol Dodo adopts the right attitude for success

WHAT makes success more important for this sales champ is being able to prove to himself that he can do it.

Known as Dodo to peers and friends, Oscar J. Gonzales, Jr. is the man whom every marketing associate in the pre-need plan company he works at admires and aspires to be.

And why not? He has been awarded not once, not thrice, but eight times the company's most coveted Sales Champion Olympian award.

The salesman extraordinaire earned his degree in Liberal Arts and Computer Studies from the Lincoln University in California, USA.

According to this golf enthusiast, having the right attitude in any field that he belongs to can bring one to where he wants to be. He shares further that, for him, what makes success more important is the fact that he is able to prove to himself that he can do it.

Now leading a team of sales prodigies, Dodo says that his management style is participative, for he believes that two or more heads are better than one. He adds, "I really appreciate and value other people's advice." True enough, the people around him have helped a lot in making him the sales idol that he is now.

What makes success more important for this sales champ is being able to prove to himself that he can do it.

Reaping the fruits of hard labor

An achiever through and through, Amy, though, was not born a winner. She fought and strived to get to where she is now. In fact, she was a plain housewife taking care of her only child Kevin and her husband

HEROES are not born, they are made. Molded by challenges and tested by fate, real heroes are those who have struggled and won. Amelia Yap is one such hero.

Amy joined a prestigious pre-need company as a sales counselor in 1991, and by 1996, she was reaping company awards left and right. And once she started, she could not be stopped.

An achiever through and through, Amy, though, was not born a winner. She fought and strived to get to where she is now. In fact, she was a plain housewife taking care of her only child Kevin and her husband when she felt she wanted an exciting but not too demanding career. In search of self-fulfillment, she donned many hats and tried her hand on several businesses before she joined the pre-need business.

Selling did not really come easy for Amy. Like many, she was rejected by friends and relatives. Amy took these rejections as opportunities to better herself by joining trainings and seminars.

After that, she became ready for the fight. Armed with sales savvy and know-how, Amy's friends and family could not anymore say no to her convincing prowess. Once she started selling and began to build her confidence, she expanded her network and customer base. Now, Amy is enjoying the fruits of her labor. A family car, annual travels for her and her family courtesy of the incentives from the company, professional and personal development through conventions, and of course, the monetary consolation.

More than an effective salesperson, however, Amy is likewise a conscientious leader to her sales agents. Constant meetings and monitoring, launching of local drives, provision of support through materials and other resources - all these are part and parcel of her responsibilities as a leader.

Our Business...
Your Peace of Mind

Himlayang Pilipino

Memorial Park
Own A Piece
of Philippine History

Memorial Life Plan
The Plan
Your Loved Ones Deserve

ACE Educational Plan
Secures Your
Child's College Education

Pamana... Pagmamahal... Panata...

Himlayang Pilipino, Inc.
Himlayang Pilipino Plans, Inc.

8th Floor, Triumph Building, 1610 Quezon Avenue
Quezon City, Metro Manila
Tel. 927-9671 to 75 Fax No. 926-7328

Pre-need industry grows 21 percent

By Joel V. Nigos

ALBEIT harder times, Filipinos were still able to set aside funds for their future needs. Latest pre-need sales report of the Securities and Exchange Commission shows that a little less than half-a-million Filipinos became the pre-need industry's new clients in the January to September period of last year.

A third-world country with one of the world's lowest GDP and savings per capita, the Philippines, nonetheless, remains an auspicious host to the thriving pre-need industry. In fact, the weakness in the country's financial system, with banks telling us that Filipinos are historically not predisposed to saving, further highlights the vital role of pre-need companies' personal investment assistance in generating income and mobilizing savings for the hardworking Filipino.

Pre-need sales figure, which covered the period January to September 2004 showed sales growing by 21 percent to P28.7 billion in the first nine months of the year.

The pre-need plans though continue to appeal to the market. The most popular of which are the pension, education and life plans.

Pension plans accounted for the bulk of the sales amounting to P14.18 billion, sales from last year's first eight months showed. This represented an increase of 33.4 percent, up from P10.63 billion in the same period last year.

Education plans grew by 8.85 percent to P9.2 billion from P8.44 billion. Sales of life plans increased by 4.45 percent to P2.11 billion from P2.02 billion.

Pension plans also led pre-need sales in terms of number of plans sold. It grew by 4.67 percent during the eight-month period last year to 180,848 plans from 172,783. Education plans, however, fell 6.66 percent to 92,086 while life plans slipped 18.24 percent to 62,697.

Optimistic

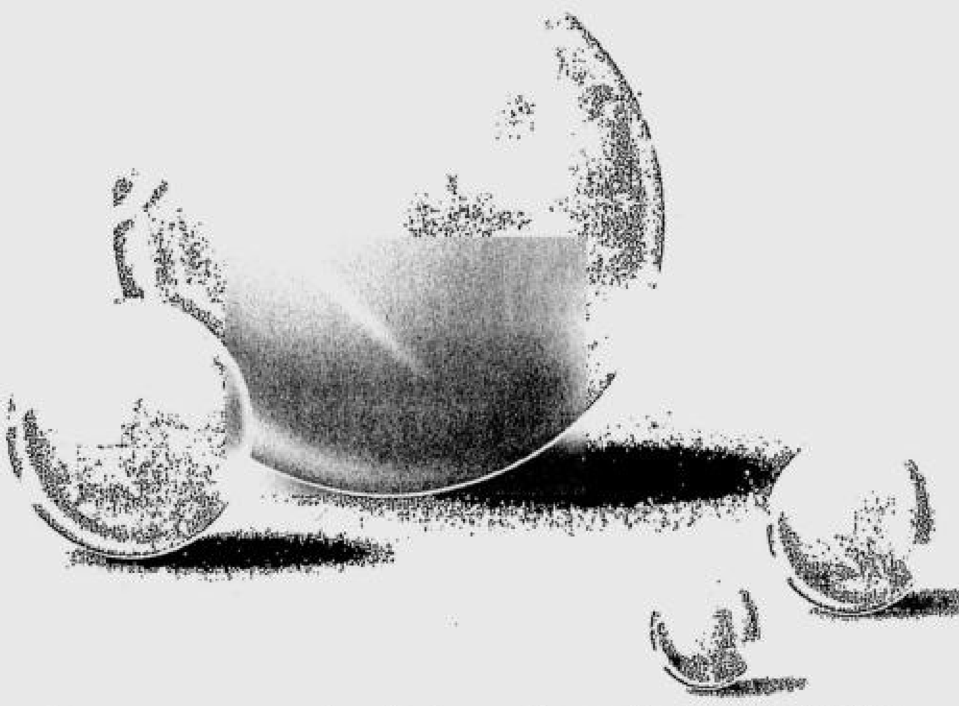
This year, officials of the Philippine Federation of Pre-need Plan Companies Inc. (PFPPCI) sees pre-need sales to grow by more than 21 percent despite the country's difficult economic situation.

Officials said that they are more optimistic this year and they expected the growth could come from higher investment income and by tapping new markets in the provinces. Investment income, mostly in government securities, accounts for 20 to 30 percent of the pre-need companies' total income.

Officials also said that the bulk of the sales of the pre-need industry would still come from pension and education plans.

Tapping new markets, the officials also expect, would contribute much to the industry's total income this year. Industry figures showed that only about 6 million of the country's total population has pre-need plans which means that there are still more than 90 percent of the population which continue to remain untapped.

Pure & Shining Pearls...
...A timeless gift of LOVE.



Our pure corporate mission... Your shining FUTURE!

It is our unwavering commitment to provide you with excellent pre-need products and services that cater to every Filipino family's personal needs... going beyond mere customer satisfaction and product excellence. Now as we celebrate our pearl anniversary we shall continue to weave your dreams into bright future and give you our timeless gift of love

PROVIDENT PLANS
INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION
Memorial Pension Educational
2nd flr., Valero Plaza, 124 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City
Tel.nos. 817-6651; 892-7081 to 88; 815-3866 Fax.: 893-6058
e-mail: ppic@providentplans.com website: www.providentplans.com

PROVIDENT PLANS INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION

Your FUTURE begins with the **RIGHT PLAN**

Uncertainties about the future add to the stress of everyday life. That's why you need to consider a savings program that helps you prepare for one of your highest financial priorities in life – your own future retirement needs. True to its commitment of helping families secure their dreams and fulfill their financial goals, Manulife Financial Plans introduces PLAN RIGHT, a multi-purpose savings plan designed to satisfy your pension needs.

PLAN RIGHT helps you secure your future in the most convenient way. It comes in affordable packages designed to suit your budget.

PLAN RIGHT ensures that your hard-earned funds will grow to meet your future needs.

PLUS you get personalized service from our well-trained and highly professional agents who are equipped to help you make better financial decisions.

PLAN RIGHT gives you a guaranteed amount upon plan maturity plus insurance coverage during the savings period:

Credit life insurance – the plan becomes fully paid upon the death of the planholder.

Credit disability insurance – the plan installments are waived as they fall due in case the planholder becomes totally and permanently disabled.

PLUS dividends that are used to buy paid-up maturity benefits.

Optional Benefits

Term Life Insurance – provides an amount equivalent to the maturity value of the plan that is paid to the beneficiary in case the planholder dies before plan maturity.

Accidental Death and Dismemberment – provides cash equivalent to 50% or 100% of maturity value that is paid to the beneficiary in case of planholder's accidental death or dismemberment before plan maturity.

Return of Payment – five years after plan maturity, the planholder or his designated beneficiary shall receive a sum equivalent to all annual payments made on the plan.

The Securities and Exchange Commission has not approved this advertisement or determined if this is accurate or complete. Any representation to the contrary constitutes a violation of the securities regulation code and is criminally punishable. The public is encouraged to report immediately to the Securities and Exchange Commission any misrepresentation or false or inaccurate statement.

☑ Plan Right
For Tomorrow's Rewards.

Manulife
Manulife Financial Plans, Inc.
14/F LKG Tower, 6801 Ayala Avenue, 1226 Makati City
Tel: 88-4-LIFE (884-5433) • Email: phcustsrv@manulife.com

THE PHILIPPINE FEDERATION OF PRE-NEED PLAN COMPANIES, INC.:

Going beyond the call of service

The nature of the pre-need business is service

THE NATURE of the pre-need business is service. Pre-need plans assist families educate their children, to care for the elderly, and to provide for those who are left behind. The pre-need industry is not about selling products; it is about serving and helping people make their lives better.

In this year's celebration of the Pre-Need Consciousness Week, the Philippine Federation of Pre-Need Plan Companies, Inc. (PFPPCI) takes a step further in answering its duty to serve the Filipino.

In partnership with the Philippine National Red Cross, the Federation has arranged for a blood-letting drive on February 2 at the Makati Shangri-La from 10:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Members of the federation, loyal subscribers and dedicated agents are invited to take this opportunity to make a difference in the lives of hundreds by donating their blood.

This is the first time that PFPPCI is doing an outreach activity as part of the observation of Pre-Need Consciousness Week. By embarking on this activity with the Philippine National Red Cross, the federation intensifies its commitment to serving the Filipino people and lives up to this year's theme of "Improving Lives and Building Futures."

Why a strong pre-need industry is important

Social security provided by government is at minimum levels and thus found to be lacking by many

FINANCIAL security of Filipinos is being taken care of, to some extent, by government through the Social Security System for the private sector workers, the Government Service and Insurance System for the public sector employees, and the PAG-IBIG Fund for both private and public sector employees. The so-called welfare agencies frontlined by the Department of Social Welfare and Development, and supported by the Department of Health, and the Department of Labor and Employment, also implement social assistance programs for the benefit of the general public.

But social security provided by government is at minimum levels and, thus, found to be lacking by many. This is why millions of Filipinos now own pre-need plans to help them see to the many contingencies in life.

Pre-need plans are contracts containing voluntary financial arrangements which provide for the performance of future services or the payment of future monetary considerations at the time of actual need, for which planholders pay in cash or installment at stated prices, with or without insurance coverage.

Pension plans, accounting for over 50 percent of total industry sales, are being purchased to meet the retirement needs of the planholder.

Some bits of history

The first pre-need company in the Philippines began operations in 1966. It offered memorial or life plans. In 1977, the pre-need pension plans - fixed-value plans with guaranteed interest income - were introduced. By 1980, the pre-need education plans came out of the market; its value proposition is to cover actual cost of tuition fees at the time the nominee entered college.

The regulatory framework

Government has been a primary beneficiary of the pre-need industry. Inasmuch as treasury bonds offer higher yields, trustee banks are enticed to lodge a significant percentage of the trust funds in this investment outlet. Equities and real estate investments came in as close second favorites.

Pre-need companies are under the supervision and regulation of the Securities and Exchange Commission. While the pre-need regulatory system that has been set in place as a result of the Commission's three decades of supervision over the industry, and enhanced in the last few years by drastic policy reforms, proves to be a workable policy framework, the passage of a legislative measure would further strengthen the industry in terms of decisively addressing solvency and fairness to planholders issues with stricter penalty provisions. Thus, the SEC supports the passage of the Pre-need Plans Code.

The proposed Code has also incorporated good governance principles - primarily higher accountabilities of management and allied business professionals plus greater disclosure and transparency - which has been the subject of SEC's crusade in the past years.

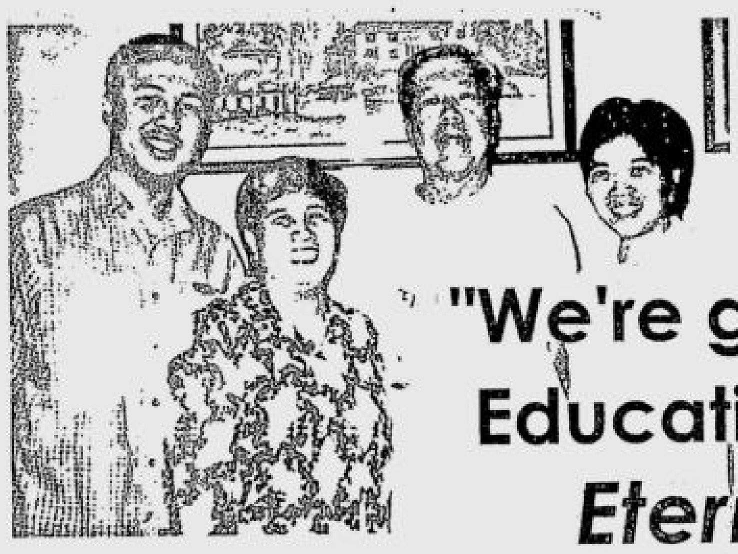
Pre-need companies play a significant role in the development of the capital market and nation-building in general. The presence and continued growth of their industry assures government as well as the business sector of uninterrupted flow of funds, through their equity and other investments.

In return, it is just befitting that the government work on more prudent regulatory measures that ensure planholder protection while at the same time providing the pre-need industry the necessary flexibility for growth and product innovation.

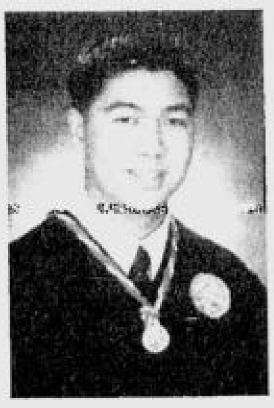
Good Corporate Governance

For its part, the pre-need industry, grouped under the Philippine Federation of Pre-need Plan Companies, Inc. (PFPPCI), closely monitors its constituents for their compliance with good corporate governance principles. It is believed that the growth of the industry can still be further bolstered, not only by its adherence to pertinent laws and regulations, but also by sound corporate governance principles observed at the individual firm level, for both big and small companies.

Based on the actual experiences of developed economies, pre-need companies like any other kind of businesses can look forward to good prospects through the help of corporate governance principles. Beyond concepts, this only means the practice of greater self-discipline to achieve the highest doctrine of integrity and corporate ethics.



"We're glad we got an Education Plans from *Eternal Plans.*"
Carreon Family



CARLO A. CARREON
Magna Cum Laude
Computer Science
Mapua Institute of Technology

All our scholars
(and we have several thousands of them)
are saying the same thing.

DR. GENALYN A. CARREON, M. D.
BS Medical Technology
University of Sto. Tomas

Since 1981
ETERNAL PLANS, INC.
Life * Pension * Education
Dominga Bldg. III, 2113 Chino Roces Ave. cor. Dela Rosa St., Makati City
Tel. Nos. : 818-9931 to 35 * 893-1709 * www.eternalplans.net.ph
The SEC has not approved or disapproved this advertisement or determined if this is accurate or complete.

PETPLANS ... STRONG, STABLE, SECURE

ESTABLISHED IN 1988, **PETPlans has made an indelible imprint in the pre-need industry as one of the top pre-need companies in the country today. Now on its 16th year in the business, PETPlans is ready to serve its growing number of planholders with more than 100 business centers nationwide and in Hongkong.**

Board of Directors, from left: AdrianV. Ocampo, Chairman & CEO - PETNet-Western Union; Fr. Edmundo M. Martinez, S.J., Vice Chairman/President - Ateneo de Davao University; Eduardo D. delos Angeles, Director/Senior Partner - Romulo, Mabanta, Buenaventura, Sayoc & delos Angeles Law Office; Millette T. Ocampo, Director/President - Manila Handicraft & Marketing Corp.; Lorenzo T. Ocampo, Director/President & COO - PETPlans, Inc.; Beatriz B. Romulo, Director/EVP - International Exchange Bank; Wilfrido E. Sanchez, Director/Financial Tax Consultant - PETPlans, Inc.; Erlinda M. Henson, Director/CFO - PETPlans, Inc.; Wigberto E. Tanada, Director/Former Senator & Congressman; Ambassador Jose C. Ibazeta, Director/Member of the Board - Anscor; Enrique M. Herbosa, Treasurer/Former President - UCPB

CORPORATE STRENGTH

- ISO 9001:2000 Certified
- In full compliance with all government regulations including Trust Funds
- An active partner of Western Union
- With more than 12,000 active business partners
- The FIRST to offer a "participating" dollar pension plan in the country

AWARDS

- Parangal ng Bayan Foundation
- Gold Quill, an international communications award
- Consumers Union of the Philippines

ACCESSIBILITY TO A GROWING PRE-NEED MARKET

PETPlans is currently establishing more accessible selling channels to serve more markets. Each selling channel is being supported by programs that will provide additional benefits to the customers.

- Business Partnership Program
- Department of Education accounts
- Military and Corporate accounts
- PETPlans Success Business System (PSBS)

SETTING A BLUEPRINT IN PRE-NEED

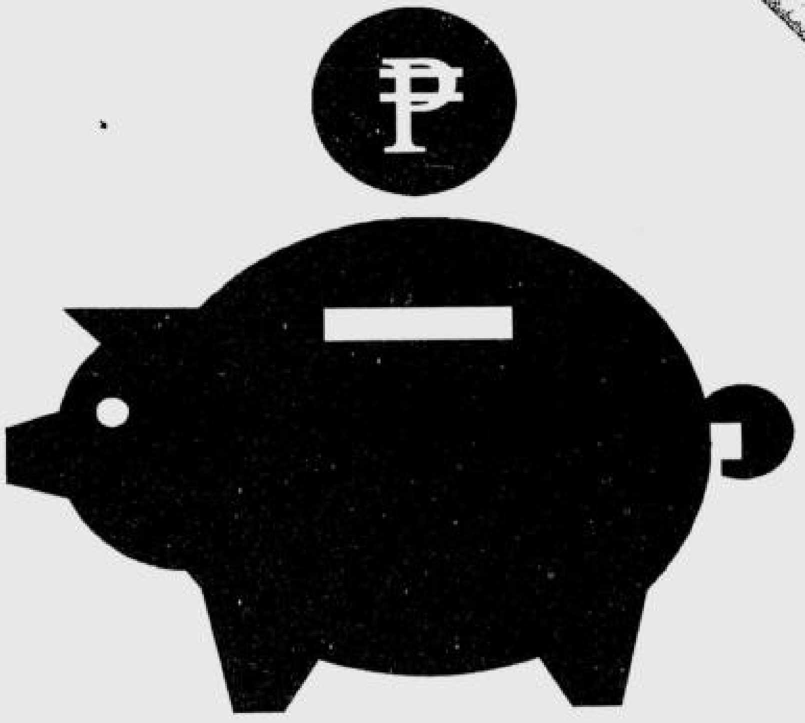
A new class of products will emerge this year -- the PET Peso Pension Plan with new and improved features and additional benefits to address a host of its customers' needs whichever income class they belong to.

Being a market driven organization, PETPlans' growth and profitability emanate both from its own areas of expertise and experience and from the strengths and customer service skills of its people, committed to take care not only of the present needs of its planholders but anticipate their future needs as well.

PET DOLLAR

PETPLANS CENTRE, 114 AGUIRRE ST.,
LEGASPI VILLAGE, MAKATI CITY 1229
TEL. NO.: (02) 892-5546
EMAIL ADDRESS: mktg@petplans.com
www.petplans.com

CUP
For the Welfare of Consumers
The Most Outstanding Pre-Need Plans Provider for 2004
15th Annual National Consumers Awards
Consumers Union of the Philippines



Is this your idea of a fat savings?

We hope not. At Cocoplans, we can give you many ideas on how to maximize your hard-earned pesos through our numerous financial plans.

You can count on us to offer you what's best and innovative. All meat, all good.

And when your plan matures, count on us to provide the money you rightfully deserve on the day we promised.

Call us today and let your local Cocoplans Business Associate show you better ways to save. And that's not just one penny at a time.

COCOPLANS

A UCPB GROUP COMPANY

www.cocoplans.com

Empower tomorrow today!

5th Floor Rufino Plaza, Ayala Avenue corner V.A. Rufino St., Makati City
Tel. Nos.: [632] 812-COCO (2626); [632] 892-4956 to 59 • Fax: [632] 894-4852 • E-mail: customercare@cocoplans.com

THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION HAS NOT DETERMINED THE ACCURACY OR COMPLETENESS OF THIS ADVERTISEMENT. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY CONSTITUTES A VIOLATION OF THE SECURITIES REGULATION CODE AND IS CRIMINALLY PUNISHABLE. THE PUBLIC IS ENCOURAGED TO REPORT IMMEDIATELY TO THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION ANY MISREPRESENTATION OR FALSE OR INACCURATE STATEMENT.

A mother's *love*

A widowed mother attests to an educational plan's invaluable assistance in securing a college degree for her beloved daughter.

IT'S A PROVEN fact for many Philippine households: While the husbands bring in the buck, it is the wives who do the planning. And with the increasing number of women joining the workforce, there's no doubt that women are making more decisions for the family.

Jesusita Padilla, mother of four, took the role when her husband died way back in 1989. Suddenly bearing the burden of having to rear her four children alone, her decisions from then on had to be 100 percent sound and risk-free. The education of her children was an utmost concern. The store she owned was able to put food on the table as well as answer little everyday expenses. But it's the education of her children that didn't quite fit the budget.

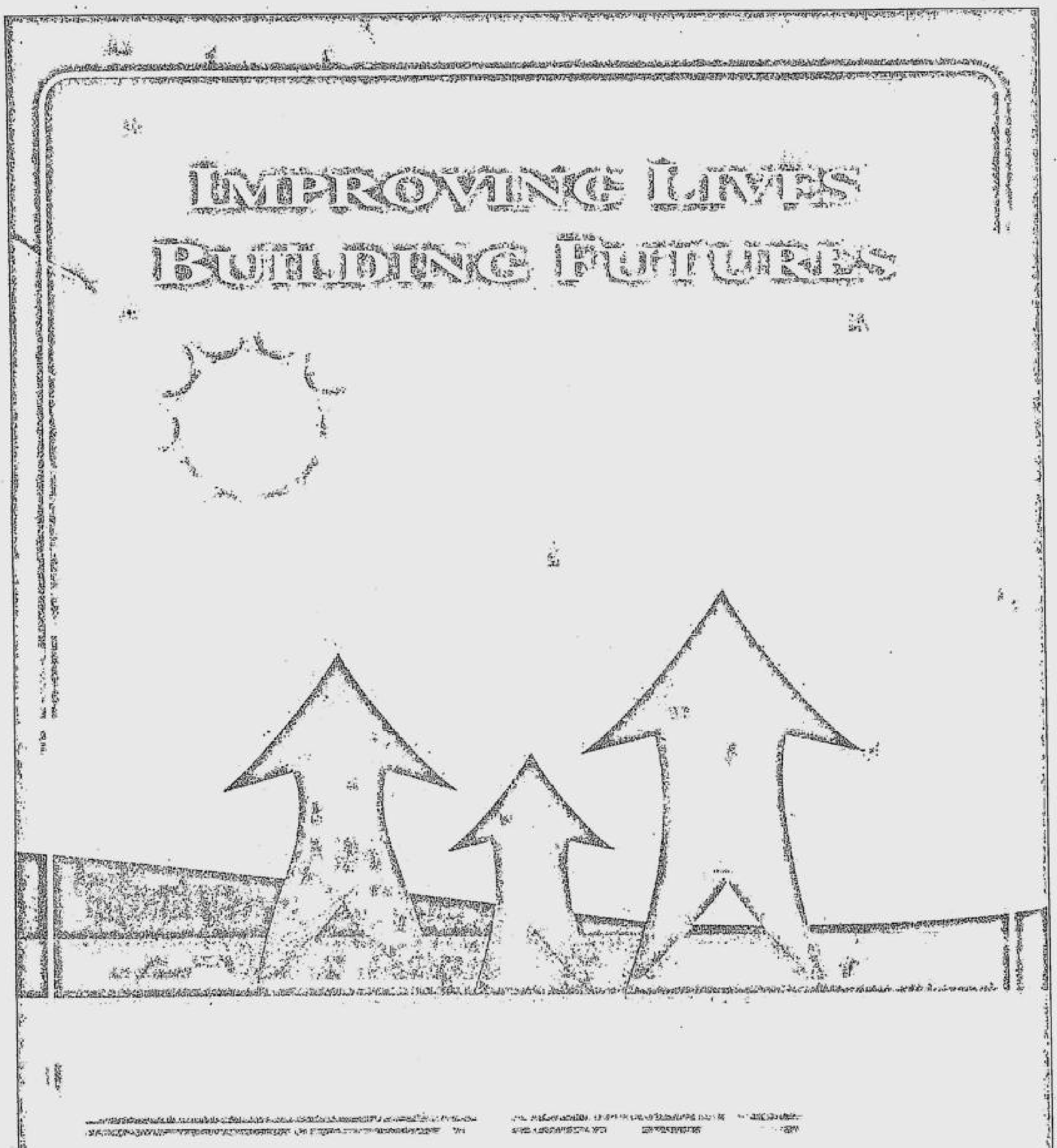
But Jesusita had enough common sense to invest her money wisely. She found her savior in educational plans that allow you to plan and pay for your child's education in small installment amounts before actual schooling.

In the case of Jesusita, she immediately planned for her youngest daughter's college education right after her husband died. As a solo parent, her greatest fear was not being able to give her children the education they deserve. Her fears were not unfounded. According to statistics, of every 100 Filipino children who enter elementary school, only 40 will enter high school, 27 will enter college and 12 will graduate.

Good thing Jesusita made the right choice. More than 10 years later, her daughter Joan enrolled in one of top universities in the country. And as reward for her mother's wise planning, Joan graduated with a BA in Legal Management, magna cum laude.

The responsibilities of mothers nowadays are increasingly expanding beyond the traditional role of rearing children. The new role, however, has been made much easier because of the availability of certain products and services. Pre-need plans, an all Filipino-concept, are now increasingly finding its way as a priority purchase of parents. Of the pre-need products available, it is the educational plan that is most patronized because of the value Filipinos put on education.

The number of planholders is expected to rise as more and more Filipinos are recognizing the need to prepare for the future. During these times of great economic challenges, getting an educational plan is not anymore a choice. It is a requirement for every parent who wants only the best for his child.


PreNeed is a Filipino invention.
It is a financial product which provides protection to the planholder and his family while enabling the financial means to secure their future Education, Memorial and Pension Needs.

While a young industry, pre-need has grown by leaps and bounds - thanks to the millions of Filipinos who have entrusted to us their financial preparation. Currently, the industry services 5 Million Clients and maintains over 65 Billion Pesos in trust fund assets!

Amidst the challenges posed on the pre-need industry, the resiliency of the industry is put to test with more stringent regulatory standards and good corporate governance rules. All these are meant to strengthen and improve the industry's foundation so it can continue Improving Lives and Building the Futures of its most valued clients - the Filipino Family.

4th Pre-Need Consciousness Week
February 1-6, 2005

PHILIPPINE FEDERATION OF PRE-NEED PLAN COMPANIES, INC.

ENTERTAINMENT
E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Editor **Louie C. Camino**
Assistant Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**
Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Why Angelina Jolie is having trouble going back to acting

SPEAKING with business leaders at the world Economic Forum about the refugee crisis: "A lot of these situations are man-made, and we can stop them. At the end of the day, businessmen have children ... businessmen do care." AP

DAVOS, Switzerland—Angelina Jolie fans may have to settle for reruns because the US actress has found humanitarian work with the UN's refugee agency more fulfilling and interesting than her erstwhile day job.

"It's harder for me to go back to work now, I've had a few months off and I'm having trouble going back to work," the award-winning star of "Girl, Interrupted" and "Tomb Raider" told media at the World Economic Forum Saturday.

"I'm finding my time at home with my son and taking him around, and traveling to UNHCR programs or other parts of the world is just more fulfilling and more interesting to me. And I know it's more important."

All the same, she added, keeping near the spotlight is crucial to continued aid for people helped by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Jolie, who has spent four years as a goodwill ambassador for the UN agency, had carried out field missions to 20 countries, including Cambodia, Ecuador, Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Thailand.

Talk with businessmen

She said the first year was spent under radio silence because "I wanted to have at least a solid year to know that I really supported UNHCR, and to know what I was talking about."

The US celebrity has met with business leaders here and is also discussing the fundamentals behind refugee crises, aside from the Asian tsunami which she noted was essentially a natural disaster.

"All of these other deaths are avoidable, and a lot of these situations are man-made, and we can stop them," she stressed.

Talks with corporate chiefs went well, Jolie added, because "at the end of the day, businessmen have children, businessmen do care," and understand they have a responsibility.

Compelling memories

Recounting her experiences in the field was harder, however, since it invariably revived compelling memories.

She nonetheless recalled the time she met "a six-year-old girl who had carried her baby sister across a border and had her parents killed in front of her and was just rocking and staring at something."

Six months later Jolie learned the girl was better and wanted to start school, which left the international aid worker thinking "My God, how is she even focusing on anything?"

Sharing the podium with Jolie was Wendy Chamberlain, deputy high commissioner for the UN agency, who told reporters the agency was currently protecting 17 million "persons of concern," primarily in Africa.

That figure is down however from 20 million people a few years ago.

The UN agency is currently active in the Darfur region of Sudan, and is also helping 230,000 refugees in neighboring Chad, "our newest and biggest operation in Africa," Chamberlain said.

She tipped southern Sudan as the next crisis area, with 150,000 Sudanese refugees in Uganda who could take the recent signing of a peace treaty as the sign to "get up and return, and that may happen overnight." *AFP*

> Traveling as UN ambassador has become 'more interesting' and 'more important'

No such thing as safe shock

WASHINGTON—There's no such thing as a safe shock.

That's the warning that US electric utilities gave to the producers of NBC's gross-out stunt show, "Fear Factor," which is planning a segment next week where couples will compete to see who can get zapped by high-voltage electricity.

In a letter to the NBC network, the Edison Electric Institute, which represents most major US utilities, raised concerns about the spectacle.

"It's important for viewers to realize that there is no such thing as a 'nuisance shock,'" and copycat pranksters could face serious injury or death from electrocution, wrote Tom Kuhn, president of the Washington lobbying group.

Details on the Monday night show were not available.

"Couples are shocked by next week's high-voltage stunt!" NBC wrote in a teaser on its "Fear Factor" website.

Previous episodes have featured contestants eating dead rats, ground-up spiders and live worms.

"The stunts described on this website were designed and supervised by trained professionals," a site disclaimer said. "They are extremely dangerous and should not be attempted by anyone, anywhere, anytime."

A spokesperson for the show on NBC, owned by General Electric Co., was not available for comment. *Reuters*

India goes for first Oscar with 'Little Terrorist'

BOMBAY—Budding Indian filmmaker Ashvin Kumar is nervous and excited, as India's hope of winning its first Oscar next month rests on his shoulders.

His 15-minute short film "Little Terrorist" has been nominated in the Best Short Film (live action) category for the 77th Academy Awards in Hollywood.

The nomination has come as a surprise to Kumar, who has been struggling to establish himself in the Indian movie world, heavily dominated by the traditional candyfloss Bollywood potboilers.

"This nomination means a lot to me, much more than if it had come later in my career," Kumar, producer-director of "Little Terrorist," told Agence France-Presse.

"I have spent more than three years trying to establish my credentials in the international forum and recognition like this is a great catalyst."

Kumar is the second Indian filmmaker to have won an academy award nomination in the last four years. Producer-director Ashutosh Gowarikar's epic film "Lagaan" (Tax) made it to the Best Foreign Films category in 2001.

"Lagaan" was nominated but failed to bring home the coveted golden statuette; it lost out to "No Man's Land" from Bosnia.

Kumar now hopes to make it with his "Little Terrorist," a story about a Pakistani boy who strays into India and is suspected to be a terrorist. The help he receives and how he finally makes his way back home form the core of the plot.

Unexpected but fabulous

The film, already shown at a number of festivals across the world, has picked up distribution and television deals since the nominations were announced Tuesday.

It was voted "Best of the Fest" at the Palm Springs Shorts film festival and has made the rounds of the Manhattan, Chicago and Telluride Sao Paulo shorts festivals.

Despite these accolades, Kumar was

INDIA/2

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Tuesday, February 1, 2005

WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY / 10 pm after Big News

American Idol
Watch it with America!
ABC

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2				Showbiz No. 1	Sandara's Romance	Get Backers	Ragnarok	Masked Rider Ryuki	TV Patrol	Spirits	Krystala	Lovers In Paris	Hiram	Star Circle Nat'l Teen Quest	Bida Si Mister Bida Si Misis			Insider	Pipol
NBN		Taiwan Winner TV Shopping		Value Vision	Teledyaryo	Value Vision		MMDA On The Road		Network Forum		Teledyaryo		TBA				Auto Focus	
ABC 5			Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko	KNN	Anime Ring Kasho				Sentro	Lizzie Mcguire	Three Blind Dates		Wow Mali		Big News	The Probe Team Documentaries		Race Hour	Billboard On-Air
GMA 7	Leya (2:45 PM)	Joyride (3:15 PM)	Snow Angel (3:45 PM)		One Piece	Witch Hunter Robin	Slam Dunk	24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Mulawin	Starstruck (8:45 PM)	Forever In My Heart (9:15 PM)		Bahay Mo Ba 'To?			Saksi
RPN 9	Metro TV Shopping			Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Entertainment Tonight	8 Simple Rules	Ripley's Believe It or Not		Crossing Jordan		John Doe		Newswatch Now	Tuesday Night Treat		
IBC 13		Lifestyle		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Retro TV		V League				Travel	IBC News Tonite	Up Close And Personal	
Solar		Wwe Raw				Mutant League	Heavy Gear	Mastaal	Dungeons And Dragons	Stargate SG1		Soldier Of Fortune		RHD/LA		The Wire		Oz	
Nickelodeon	Dora, The Explorer	Little Bear	Blues Clues	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Nick Mix		100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd				Rugrats
MYX		Urban MYX	MYX Backtrax	Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Mellow MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	Top Of The Pops	MYX Remakes	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		Last Comic Standing		The Today Show		Starting Over		NBC Nightly News		Will & Grace	What I Like About You	One Tree Hill		The O.C.		Tonight Show With Jay Leno		Eliminidate	Change of Heart
Cinema One		Mr. Suave				Drama Studio: Ibigay Mo Sa Akin Ang Bukas				Noon At Ngayon		Kung Ayaw Mo, Huwag Mo				Kahit Buhay Ko			
Studio 23	Bewitched	Survivor: Thailand	MYX Backtrax					X-Men Evolution	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Wazzup Wazzup	Fightbox	The Amazing Race 6		Smallville		News Central	The Oprah Winfrey Show		The Men's Room
AXN		The Amazing Race		Maximum Exposure		Fear Factor		Samurai X	Samurai X	Beastmaster		Ripley's Believe It or Not		Alias		The Amazing Race		WRC 2005: Monte Carlo	
Star World	Becker	The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Ally McBeal		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	Road Trip/ Charmed		The Apprentice/ Wild Card		Manhunt: The Search For America's Most Gorgeous Male Model		Friends	Road Trip
CNN				Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News Asia		World News		World News Asia		World News	World Sport
National Geographic	On Assignment	Thrill Seeker		The Sea Hunters		Lost Subs		The Snake Wranglers	Croc Chronicles With Dr. Brady Barr	Wild		About Asia		Nat'l Geographic Specials/Built For The Kill		Thrill Seeker		The Sea Hunters	
Solar Sports		Euro Isam Champs '04 WS Finals		GWS ep.3-2005	FIVB World Grand Prix Germany vs. China					Muhammad Ali Through the Eyes of the World		GWS ep.57	NBA TV Daily	NBA Game Grizzlies @ Hornets					NBA Inside Stuff
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	The Fix	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Molto Mario	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Passion For Dessert	It's Good To Be	A Second Look		Look For Less	Style Star	Road & Track	Back To Basics	Clean House	
HBO	Leave It To Beaver (2:20 PM)			Dad (3:50 PM)				Cowboy Bebop: The Movie			Catch Me If You Can (7:45 PM)					Six Feet Under 31. The Trip		Tommy Boy (10:55PM)	
Star Movies				A Good Night To Die (4:15 PM)				Hollywood Wives (5:50 PM)			Sleeping With The Enemy			Just Married			River's Edge (10:35PM)		
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Sylvester & Tweety Mysteries	Police Academy	He-Man & The Masters Of The Universe	Teen Titans	Yu-Gi-Oh!	Gundam Seed	The Looney Tunes Show		The Powerpuff Girls	Codename: Kids Next Door	Mr. T	Josie And The Pussycats	Boomerang - Boomeraction	Yu-Gi-Oh!
ESPN			2003 Killerspin Xtreme Table Tennis C'ships	Big 10 Conf. Basketball- Indiana vs. Iowa				NFL's Greatest Game			Superbowl XXXVI Highlights: Patriots vs. Rams	Sportscenter Taiwan	Pool/Snooker Mosconi Cup '04		Big 12 Conf. Basketball- Missouri vs. Kansas				Sportscenter Asia
Disney Channel	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	Lizzie Mcguire	Even Stevens	That's So Raven	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	The Legend Of Tarzan	Lilo & Stitch/Untalkative Bunny	America's Funniest Home Video	Wonderful World Of Disney			My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	According To Jim	America's Funniest Home Video	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Cinemax	The Perfect Husband			Cinema Secrets III Ep 12: Explosives Effects	Sherlock (4:45PM)				The Parole Officer			Lightning: Bolts Of Destruction			The Accused (9:40 PM)				Federal Protection (11:25PM)
Hallmark Channel	Mad About You	Defending Our Kids: The Julie Posey Story				Play With Me Sesame	Sesame Street		Bewitched	Agency II		Just Cause		Mr. Saint Nick			Changi (10:35PM)		Agency II (11:25PM)
Discovery Channel		Civilizations				Wild Science		Ultimate Discovery		Rides		Human Discovery		Wild Discovery		Ultimate Discovery		Science Mysteries	
MTV Philippines				Non-Stop Hits		Non-Stop Hits		MTV Get Spotted	MTV Loveline	MTV Lokal				TRL		Punk'D	Wildboyz	VH1 Hits/ Video Collection	
Sports Plus			Superbowl Cowboys vs Dolphins		Pac 10 Stanford @ California Reg					Slipstream		Arena Football: Sabercats vs. Bay Storm						Raceworld	
EWTN	Pope John Paul's Legacy To The Family	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Mysteries Of The Rosary	My Little Angels	Angel Force	The Holy Rosary With Mother Angelica and the Nuns Of Our Lady Of Angels Monastery	Fr. Groeschel	Catholic Morality & The Catechism	EWTN Gallery	The Journey Home		Does The Church Still Teach That	Lord, Have Mercy	Daily Mass		Angelus (10:15PM)	We Are One Body	Web Of Faith	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

TANONG NG BAYAN
RP MEDIA:
NAGKULANG BA SA GOOD NEWS?
CELLCARD KADA ARAW, CELLPHONE KADA LINGGO! TEXT 2910 NOW!
TUWING HUWEBES
pagkatapos ng American Idol
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV

NLRC junks former exec's case vs GMA-7

THE NATIONAL Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) has junked for lack of jurisdiction the illegal dismissal case filed by a former high-ranking GMA 7 executive against the network and its chair, president and CEO, Felipe L. Gozon.

The decision of NLRC Commissioner Tito F. Genilo affirmed the earlier ruling of Labor Arbiter Madjayran H. Ajan, who pointed out that the removal of Dan Albert S. de Padua as vice president for network operations and programming was the result of an "intra-corporate controversy." Ajan said the Labor Arbiter's office had no jurisdiction over the case.

GMA fired De Padua in April 2002 "for loss of trust and confidence."

The case was brought to the Labor Arbiter. De Padua appealed its subsequent ruling, saying Ajan's office committed "serious error" in not assuming jurisdiction. The network argued that the NLRC had "no jurisdiction over the complaint" either, pointing out that the case of an elected corporate officer's dismissal should go to the Regional Trial Court.

In the end, the NLRC ruled that the Labor Arbiter committed no error, and concurred that De Padua should bring his case to the RTC.

India goes...

From page 1

surprised by the nomination, especially when India's official entry to the Oscars, "Shwas" (Breath), failed to get the jury's nod, despite heavy local media hype.

"It is still sinking in," said Kumar, a graduate of the London School of Filmmaking and son of well known fashion designer Ritu Kumar.

"It was unexpected ... but now that it has happened, it is fabulous," he said.

On the night of Feb. 27, "Little Terrorist" will face competition for the famed golden statuettes from "Everything In this Country Must," "7:35 In The Morning," "Two Cars, One Night," and "Wasp."

Kumar is now concentrating on full length feature films "Road to Ladakh" and "Forest," the latter about conservation.

Bollywood not upset

With "Little Terrorist" keeping Indian Oscar hopes alive, the failure of the much-hyped "Shwas" does not come as an upset to Bollywood.

Industry experts feel that the failure of "Shwas" reflected tough competition as some of the world's best movies fight out in the slot.

"It is not a question of being surprised that "Shwas" wasnt nominated," Gowarikar told AFP.

"It is a very good film, but then there are at least eight or nine films in the world cinema which are also excellent."

"Shwas" revolves around two central characters, a boy and his grandfather. The boy, on the verge of losing his eyesight, is guided by his grandfather through his last days before blindness.

The movie won India's top national award for the best film of 2004.

"Such a film [had not been] made for a long time, and ... in a regional language like Marathi at that," said film critic Deepa Gehlot. "But for an international audience it is not a big deal as they have seen a lot of good cinema."

AFP

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 2000

Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 (DTS) RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 DARKNESS
2 (DTS) RAISE YOUR VOISE
3 (DOLBY) ELEKTRA
4 HAROLD & KUMAR

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 SECRETARY
2 (DOLBY) RAISE YOUR VOISE
3 (DTS) ELEKTRA
4 HAUNTED SPIRIT-2

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 KUNG FU HUSTLE
2 DARKNESS
3 (DOLBY) OCEAN'S TWELVE

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) DARKNESS
2 RAISE YOUR VOISE
3 (DTS) ELEKTRA
4 HUBAD NA MULTO
5 HAROLD & KUMAR

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1 OCEAN'S TWELVE
2 HONEY
3 (DTS) HELLWOLFE
4 (DOLBY) KUNG FU HUSTLE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 KUNG FU HUSTLE
2 ELEKTRA
3 UNO
4 BLADE TRINITY

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 HELLWOLFE
2 KUNG FU HUSTLE
3 (DOLBY) BLADE TRINITY
4 (DTS) OCEAN'S TWELVE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX) HAROLD & KUMAR
2 THE SIN
3 (DTS ES) ELEKTRA
4 IMPOTENT MAN

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1 HAROLD & KUMAR
2 HAYOP SA PORMA HANEP SA GANDA
3 (DOLBY) IMPOTENT MAN
4 (DTS) ELEKTRA

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1 KUNG FU HUSTLE
2 THE GHOST
3 (DOLBY) BLADE TRINITY
4 (DTS) OCEAN'S TWELVE

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
2 RAISE YOUR VOISE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 7953320

1 BLADE TRINITY
2 UNO
3 (DOLBY) WHITE NOISE

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

• REGIONAL CINEMAS •

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907
1 ELEKTRA
2 HAUNTED SPIRITS 2
3 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON
4 MAY
5 RAISE YOUR VOICE

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870
1 BLADE TRINITY
2 ELEKTRA
3 2046
4 NAKAW NA SANDALI
5 KUNG FU HUSTLE

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332
1 WHITE NOISE
2 BLADE TRINITY
3 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON
4 RAISE YOUR VOICE
5 ELEKTRA

ANGELES (045) 892-2348
1 BLADE TRINITY
2 WHITE NOISE
3 HONEY
4 AFTER THE SUNSET

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188
1 ELEKTRA
2 WHITE NOISE
3 KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 BLADE TRINITY
5 HONEY
6 MADHOUSE

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270
1 MAY
2 HAYOP SA PORMA HANEP SA GANDA
3 HONEY
4 WHITE NOISE
5 ELEKTRA
6 OUT OF REACH

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459
1 ELEKTRA
2 HAROLD AND KUMAR
3 IN SEARCH OF AN IMPOTENT MAN
4 BAD SANTA
5 2046
6 MAY

ILOILO (033) 336-8070
1 ELEKTRA
2 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON
3 SEED OF CHUCKY
4 IN SEARCH OF AN IMPOTENT MAN
5 NAKAW NA SANDALI
6 NED KELLY

MOVIE PASS
MOVIE PASS
MOVIE PASS

The Perfect Gift All Year Round

A Pre Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in town.

Get Special discounts for volume purchases!

For marketing and events/reservations please call:

Marketing Services Department at 687-7945 to 47 locals 14 and 15

SeeMall!

AYALA CINEMAS THX

Movies/schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729-7777

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
1 ELEKTRA	1 WHITE NOISE	1 ELEKTRA	GUARANTEED SEATS 1 MEET THE FOCKERS [illegible] 6:45, 9:15, 11:45	1 ELEKTRA
2 MEET THE FOCKERS	2 ELEKTRA	2 MEET THE FOCKERS	GUARANTEED SEATS 2 ELEKTRA 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00, 11:15	2 MEET THE FOCKERS
3 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE	3 MEET THE FOCKERS	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 MEET THE FOCKERS 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 MEET THE FOCKERS [illegible] 5:55, 8:25, 10:55	3 SUPER BABIES: BABY GENIUSES 2
4 OCEAN'S 12	4 KUNG FU HUSTLE	4 OCEAN'S 12	GUARANTEED SEATS 4 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30	4 KUNG FU HUSTLE
5 KUNG FU HUSTLE		5 KUNG FU HUSTLE	GUARANTEED SEATS 5 OCEAN'S 12 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45, 12:00	5
		6 ELEKTRA		
		7 WHITE NOISE		

GB1 GREENBELT 1
1 MEET THE FOCKERS 12:05, 2:35, 5:05, 7:35, 10:05
2 ELEKTRA 11:15, 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
WELCOME 2005 SALE On-going until January 31, 2005	WELCOME 2005 SALE January 14 to 31, 2005	TV Eskwela Show January 29, 2005

ENTERTAINMENT LIVE!

GREENBELT 2	GREENBELT 3
WELCOME 2005 SALE January 14 to 31, 2005	WELCOME 2005 SALE January 14 to 31, 2005

Onstage! REPERTORY PHILIPPINES presents OH ROMEO at REP's GLOBE THEATER - January 14 to 30, 2005

Ayala MUSEUM Visit the New Ayala Museum located beside Greenbelt 4 along Makati Avenue. For inquiries, please call 757-7117

Explore the arbitrary nature of secrecy, and the enduring passion, intuition and tenacity of the human heart in

A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
PHOTO EXHIBIT

Now open to the public at the Glorietta 4 Cinema Lobby

Movie opens February 2 at Ayala Cinemas.

AYALA CINEMAS

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "AMELIE"
A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT

JENNIFER GARNER
ELEKTRA

NOW SHOWING AT

AYALA CINEMAS
AYALA CENTER CEBU
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
GLORIETTA 1 & 4 • GREENBELT 1 & 3

For screening schedule, call 729-7777

Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart). Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservation.

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)

WELCOME 2005 SALE

Ayala Center Makati:
January 14 to 31
Per DTI NCR Permit No. A1-018, Series of 2005

Alabang Town Center:
January 14 to 31
Per DTI NCR Permit No. A2-016, Series of 2005

Ayala Center Cebu:
January 13 to 16
Per DTI Cebu Permit No. 013, Series of 2005

Give them the gift of total entertainment.

for only ₱200
1 Ayala Cinemas Ticket
7 Timezone Passes
1 Taters/Chimara Cine-Snack

Available in all Taters/Chimara and Ayala Cinemas Glorietta 1 & 4, Greenbelt 1 & 3, Alabang Town Center and Ayala Cebu.

TIMEZONE CHIMARA

CUSTOMER SERVICE TEXT HOTLINE: 0917-6095900 • CUSTOMER SERVICE HOTLINE: Glorietta - 752-7272; from 10am to 8pm • Greenbelt - 757-4853; from 11am to 12mn • Alabang Town Center - 842-2782; from 10am to 8pm Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231-5342 loc 324 • AYALA CINEMA LINKS: For screening times call 729-7777. Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart). Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

AYALA CENTER ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU LoveMall!

THEY sang along with her.

Guam fans wow Sarah Geronimo

"IT WAS unbelievable! The fans simply loved us. It was great fun performing before such an audience."

Sarah Geronimo is still ecstatic over the success of the "Night of the Champions" concert in Guam. She and her fellow singing champs Mark Bautista, Rachelle Ann Go and Christian Bautista played to sold-out crowds at the Micronesia and Expo Hall on Jan. 21 and 22.

The concerts also became the Guam launch for Sarah's second album, "Sweet Sixteen," under Viva Records. Released locally just two months ago, the album has reportedly gone platinum, with more than 30,000 copies sold.

Sarah was surprised that her songs had become such big hits among the Filipinos there. When she sang "Forever is Not Enough" and "How Could You Say You Love Me," the young fans in the audience sang along with her. "Somehow, that made up for the exhaustion, the hectic schedule," she said, smiling.

Sarah is preparing for "Search for a Star in a Million," ABS-CBN's new nationwide talent-search program, which she will host with Mark, Erik and Christian.

She is nervous, she admitted. "I hope my fans support me as a TV host the way they supported me in 'Sarah: The Teen Princess,'" she said.

Viva Boss Vic del Rosario has also announced that Sarah will be the country's representative to the Lunar Parade in Los Angeles in March. "I'm very proud to be given this rare opportunity," Sarah said.

In May, the cast of singing champs flies to the US mainland for "Return of the Champions US Tour 2005." The tour kicks off May 21 in New York, followed by stops in Washington, May 22; Chicago, May 28; San Francisco, June 4; Seattle, June 5; Los Angeles, June 11; Las Vegas, June 12;, and San Diego, June 17. The show goes to Hawaii on June 19.

Araneta Center
LEISURE GUIDE
For All Inquiries : Pls. Call TicketNet 911-5555

GATEWAY CINEPLEX 10
The First and Only Real Cineplex in the Philippines!
ADMISSION: P99 (Free Seating) P120 (Reserved Seats)
ALL THEATERS WITH IMPORTED SEATS AND WALL-TO-WALL CARPET, ONLINE VISTA TICKET COMPUTER SYSTEM.
Gateway CiNePlEx*10
Level 4, Gateway Mall
NOW SHOWING
ELEKTRA 11:00 1:10 1:40 3:50 4:20 6:30 7:00 9:10 9:40
MEET THE FOCKERS 12:10 2:00 2:30 4:20 4:50 6:40 7:10 9:00 9:30
ITS ALL ABOUT LOVE 1:50 4:10 6:30 9:00
WHITE NOISE 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00
KUNG FU HUSTLE 1:50 4:10 6:30 8:50
OCEAN'S TWELVE 1:50 4:20 6:50 9:20

ALI MALL CINEMAS
1 Dolby ELEKTRA 1:00 3:30 6:00 8:30
2 SDDS MEET THE FOCKERS 1:05 3:25 5:45 8:15
3 dts BLADE: TRINITY 11:30 1:50 4:10 6:30 8:50
4 Dolby SCHOOL FOR SEDUCTION 12:45 3:15 5:45 8:15
5 Dolby HAYOP SA PORMA 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:20

GATEWAY MALL
LIVE BAND! COOL JAZZ, COOL CLASSICS
Every Friday & Saturday 8:00 pm to 11:30 pm

ARANETA COLISEUM

Feb. 2	Game 2	PBA FINALS GINEBRA VS. Talk N' Text
Feb. 4	Game 3	
Feb. 6	Game 4	

NEW FIESTA CARNIVAL
OPEN: Tuesday to Saturday 4 PM to 10 PM
Sunday & Holiday 2 PM to 10 PM

CHINA CRISIS
BINONDO INVADES ROCKWELL
Wushu and Taichi Exhibition • Lion and Dragon Dance
Feng Shui Consultation • Little Chinatown
FEBRUARY 1 TO 13
POWER PLANT MALL

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
Voted Best Movie Theater
-Philippine Daily Inquirer's
2004 Yearend Reader Survey
For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 ELEKTRA 12:15, 2:35, 5:35 8:15, 10:55 PG-13
2 MEET THE FOCKERS 11:50, 2:20, 4:50 7:20, 10:20 PG-13
3 ELEKTRA 11:45, 2:25, 5:05 7:45, 10:25 PG-13
4 ALL ABOUT LOVE 11:00, 1:25, 3:50 6:15, 8:40, 11:00 PG-13

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

ELEKTRA PG13 1:05,3:15,5:25,7:35,9:45	ELEKTRA PG13 11:40, 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30	MEET THE FOCKERS PG13 12:30,2:55,5:20,7:45,10:10
MEET THE FOCKERS PG13 1:45,4:10,6:35,9:00	IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:15	WHITE NOISE PG13 12:50, 3:10

star group of cinemas movie guide IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND

starmall EDSA-SHAW
Tel. No. 726.61.50
3 Madhouse
4 Elektra
5 Perlas

METROPOLIS ALABANG star
Tel. No. 850.42.85
1 Perlas
2 Masarap Ang Unang Kagat
3 Kung Fu Hustle
4 The Return Of The Demons
5 Elektra
6 Blade Trinity

starmall LAS PIÑAS
Tel. No. 873.50.04
1 Happy Together
2 Spirit of The Glass

Everyday Family Day! @ Metropolis Cinema Get Free Toms World Tokens for every ticket purchase

For movie schedules visit www.clickthecity.com

THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 ELEKTRA 10:40, 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:15 PG13
CINEMA 2 MEET THE FOCKERS 11:00, 1:45, 4:25, 7:05, 9:50 PG13
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

MUSIC MUSEUM FEBRUARY 3,2005 LANCE & RANNIE REYMUNDO 8.00PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

SHANG CINEPLEX
① ELEKTRA FS 10:50AM, 1:30PM, 4:10PM, 6:50PM, LMF 9:30PM (PG - 13)
② ELEKTRA FS 11:20AM, 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:20PM, LMF 10:00PM (PG - 13)
③ ITS ALL ABOUT LOVE FS 12:20PM, 2:45PM, 5:10PM, 7:35PM, LMF 10:00PM (PG-13)
④ MEET THE FOCKERS FS 12:00PM, 2:30PM, 5:00PM, 7:30PM, LMF 10:00PM (PG - 13)
PREMIERE THEATRE MEET THE FOCKERS
FS 11:00AM, 1:30PM, 4:00PM, 6:30PM, LMF 9:00PM (PG-13)
MOVIES & SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

A Blockbuster Gift for All Seasons
The Shang Cineplex Gift Certificates
Treat your family and friends to a thrilling movie experience only at the Shang.
Call 633-2227 or 633-7851 loc. 171 for inquiries and reservations.
Cinema Treats - for Cinemas 1, 2, 3 and 4
Premier Rewards - for the Premier Theatre

Regular Ticket Price
Premiere Theatre - P295
(includes unlimited popcorn and beverage)
Cinemas 1 to 4 - P150
Shangri-La Plaza

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE
MOVIEWORLD
CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES
www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE .

• METRO MANILA CINEMAS •

GALLERIA 632-9115/16
1 ELEKTRA • THX 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
2 MEET THE FOCKERS 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
3 SCHOOL FOR SEDUCTION 10:45 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00
4 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE 10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
5 ELEKTRA 11:30 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30
6 OCEAN'S TWELVE 11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00
7 WHITE NOISE 12:20 2:40 5:00 7:20 9:40
8 KUNG FU HUSTLE 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
9 BLADE TRINITY 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
10 MADHOUSE 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

ERMITA 538-7809 to 12
1 ELEKTRA 10:35 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50
2 WHITE NOISE 10:30 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:50
3 MEET THE FOCKERS 10:20 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
4 RESERVE
5 SCHOOL FOR SEDUCTION 10:35 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50
6 BLADE TRINITY 10:20 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
7 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE 10:30 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193/99 • 682-8280
1 SCHOOL FOR SEDUCTION 11:10 1:40 4:10 6:40 9:10
2 ELEKTRA 10:10 12:45 3:20 5:55 8:30
3 MADHOUSE 11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10
4 WHITE NOISE 11:10 1:40 4:10 6:40 9:10
5 MEET THE FOCKERS 11:20 1:40 4:00 6:20 8:30 10:30
6 KUNG FU HUSTLE 10:50 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 8:45 10:30
7 ELEKTRA 12:10 2:45 5:20 7:55 10:30
8 BLADE TRINITY 11:50 2:30 5:10 7:50 10:30

NOVALICHES 935-3229/31
1 ELEKTRA 3:20 5:55 8:30
2 OCEAN'S TWELVE 11:50 2:40 5:30 8:25
3 MADHOUSE 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55
4 BLADE TRINITY 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 8:50
5 MEET THE FOCKERS 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55
6 SCHOOL FOR SEDUCTION 11:00 1:20 3:40 6:00 8:25
7 TWO BROTHERS 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00
8 ELEKTRA 10:10 12:15 2:50

CHECK THIS OUT ►►

A NEW FAMILY ADVENTURE FILM
TWO BROTHERS

Exclusive SCREENING
TWO BROTHERS
January 26 - February 1
Robinsons Movieworld NOVALICHES
MTRCB Rating: G

PIONEER 687-5378
1 ELEKTRA 11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:00
2 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE 11:40 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00
3 MEET THE FOCKERS 10:45 1:15 3:45 6:15 8:45
4 RAISE YOUR VOICE

Citisquare MALABON 288-0985 / 2575
1 RAISE YOUR VOICE 11:10 1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30
2 KUNG FU HUSTLE 11:30 1:45 4:00 6:15 8:30
3 WHITE NOISE 11:30 1:45 4:00 6:15 8:30
4 SAPLOT 11:20 1:10 3:00 4:50 6:40 8:30

CAINTA 240-4661
1 ELEKTRA 11:40 1:50 4:00 6:10 8:20
2 MEET THE FOCKERS 10:45 1:15 3:45 6:15 8:45
3 WHITE NOISE 12:45 3:15 5:45 6:15
4 BLADE TRINITY 12:50 3:30 6:10 8:50

MOVIE PASS
MOVIE PASS
MOVIE PASS

The Perfect Gift All Year Round
A Pre Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in town.
Get Special discounts for volume purchases!
For marketing and events/reservations please call:
Marketing Services Department at 687-7945 to 47 locals 14 and 15

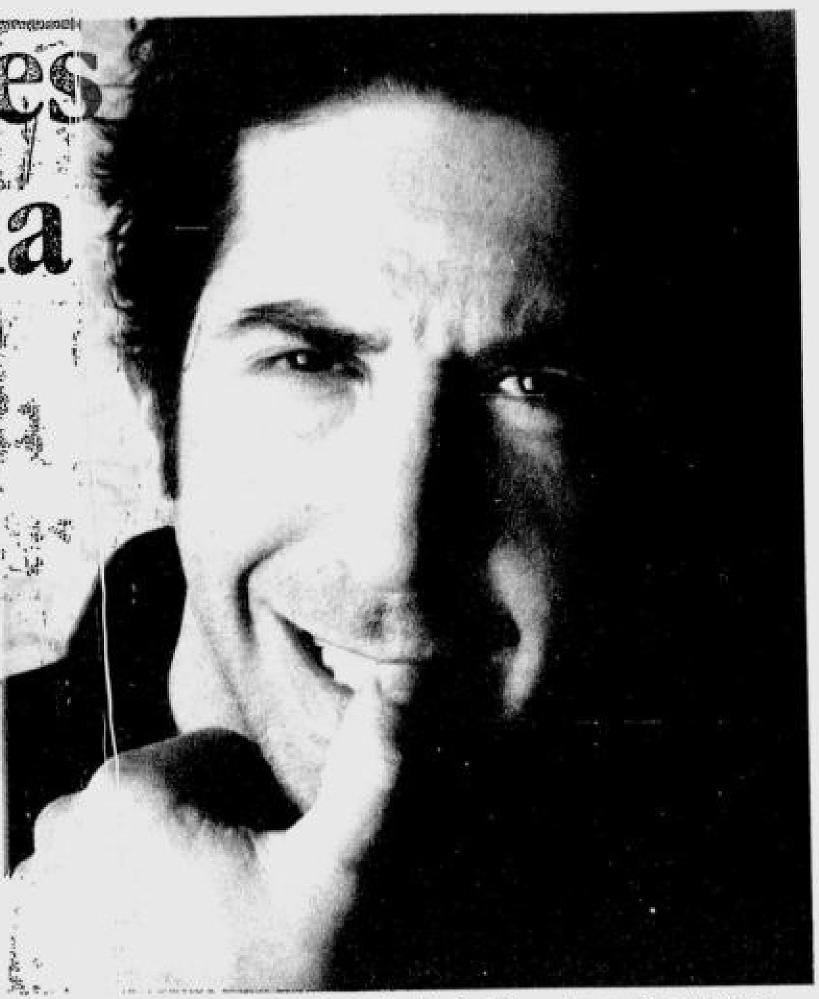
E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT Metro

Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Best 'Friend' Ross trades laughs for drink, drama

David Schwimmer is the latest in a long line of actors to show off their acting 'chops' by playing alcoholics who are out of control



HE WANTS to grow as an actor by playing "unfamiliar and uncomfortable" roles.

PARK CITY, Utah—One of America's favorite television actors has turned to drinking to show off both his acting skills and that he is not just a "Friend."

For 10 years on TV comedy "Friends," David Schwimmer made audiences laugh as the lovable Ross, but with his new movie "Duane Hopwood" premiering this week at the Sundance Film Festival, Schwimmer shows his flair for the dramatic by playing an alcoholic whose life is spiraling out of control.

Schwimmer is the latest in a long line of actors, from Ray Milland in "Lost Weekend" to Nicolas Cage in "Leaving Las Vegas," to show off their acting "chops' by playing alcoholics. In Schwimmer's case, it's a bid to avoid being typecast as Ross.

And Sundance, the top US gathering for independent films, is often the place to do it. For years, actors and actresses, including Schwimmer's "Friends" co-star Jennifer Aniston, have used the low-budget movies grabbing the spotlight here as a turning point for new directions in their careers.

Earlier this week, Pierce Brosnan and Kevin Costner showed different screen personas. Brosnan portrayed an emotionally conflicted hitman in "The Matador," while Costner played a middle-aged drunk in a guest-starring role in "The Upside of Anger."

Growing as an actor

On "Friends," Schwimmer was the neurotic straight arrow Ross. In the title role of "Duane Hopwood," he is a casino manager whose life is being destroyed by drinking.

"I like to grow as an actor, and you can do that by playing parts that are unfamiliar to you and uncomfortable," he told Reuters in an interview. "This was definitely an opportunity to play a guy who I think has nothing in common with the character of Ross."

To "Hopwood" director Matt Mulhern, the TV star's ability to perform in a drama came as little surprise.

"He's clearly a whipsmart guy ... and I'd seen him in a couple of roles that indicated he clearly had dramatic ability," Mulhern said in the same interview.

Schwimmer, 38, co-founded the Looking Glass Theater Company in 1988 in Chicago, where he lives, and has performed in and directed several of the company's productions over the years.

In the movie, Duane Hopwood lives near Atlantic City, New Jersey, and works the overnight shift as a pit boss in one of the casinos that dots the boardwalk in that gambling town.

Initially, audiences see that he was at one time happily married, but his drinking led to a divorce. His wife, portrayed by Janeanne Garofalo, has met another man and is seeking to rescind his visitation rights to their two daughters.

Major challenge

It is at that point where "Duane Hopwood," really begins, and what audiences see is a character study of one man's downward spiral through an alcohol-soaked haze.

Schwimmer said he signed up to perform the Duane Hopwood character while "Friends" was still on air, and began shooting the movie only two weeks after the TV show wrapped up production.

He said a major challenge for him in recent years has been to get Hollywood studios and casting directors to see him as anything other than Ross, or some facsimile of the character.

The star added that he is unconcerned about how his legion of fans who knew him for years as Ross may react to seeing him playing a down-and-out drunk.

"I can't worry or choose things thinking about whether people will like me or that I'm betraying some character on TV," he said. "I choose things because I personally respond to them and because I'm passionate about the stories." *Reuters*

ROLAND KICKINGER, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Jüren Prochnow as the same person: Maybe we should try another set.

But who can play Arnie and live to tell the tale?

SAN FRANCISCO—Can any actor or film live up to the oversize image of Arnold Schwarzenegger?

The public can soon decide as "See Arnold Run," a new docu-drama on the former Mr. Universe, action film superstar and now governor of California, premieres on the A&E Network.

The film jumps back and forth between a young muscular Schwarzenegger, played with cocky gusto by Austrian bodybuilder Roland Kickinger, preparing for a Mr. Olympia contest and an older Schwarzenegger running for governor in 2003.

Jürgen Prochnow, who starred as a German World War Two U-boat captain in the 1981 film "Das Boot" and had a role in "The English Patient," plays Schwarzenegger today.

"It's pretty difficult actually," Prochnow said of the role in an interview on Friday from his home in the same Los Angeles neighborhood of Schwarzenegger's mansion. "I needed some time to make up my mind about this, whether I should do this or not, because ... he is so well-known all over the world and he is alive and everybody can compare what I was doing with him."

Prochnow, who said he has met Schwarzenegger only once, in Germany, said he reviewed campaign video and watched some of the Austrian-born governor's films to prepare for the role.

"I had about four weeks of preparation time. We had camera tests, we had make-up tests, we had wardrobe tests aplenty. That helped of course to get into the character," he said. "Then I watched the videos of the campaign again and again and again."

Mixed reviews

Still, some critics say the Berlin-born Prochnow, six years older than the California governor, lacks the charisma of the real "Terminator," and that his German-accented speech falls short of Schwarzenegger's Austrian sing-song tones.

Critic Andrew Wallenstein said on National Public Radio: "Prochnow is a total failure who pretty much kills the movie."

Other reviews on Friday were mixed, with the San Francisco Chronicle giving the film its lowest score. "The laughs are all yours as 'See Arnold Run' unfolds Sunday as two of the most embarrassing, ridiculous hours of filmed television in some time," Tim Goodman wrote. "'See Arnold Run' is terrible."

Alessandra Stanley in the New York Times was more charitable. "'See Arnold Run' is a little like the candidate's stump speech—glib, compelling and inadequate," she wrote. She added that Prochnow was "good, but not entirely convincing."

The difficulty of presenting an insightful film on the real Schwarzenegger is evident from "How Arnold Won the West," an 80-minute documentary from a former BBC producer released on DVD this week.

Whereas "See Arnold Run" portrays the race for governor with intimate views of Schwarzenegger, his wife Maria Shriver played by Mariel Hemingway, and top political aides, the documentary on the 2003 recall election offers an outsider's perspective.

Although the film captures the tumultuous feeling of the unprecedented recall campaign, in 80 minutes it offers no new insights from Schwarzenegger, his wife or top aides, all of whom declined to grant interviews to the filmmaker. *Reuters*

Overseas performing artists turn to GMA

HELP, Madame President.

The Talents and Artists Managers Association (Tama) is urgently seeking the intervention of President Macapagal-Arroyo, on behalf of some 197,000 Filipino overseas performing artists in Japan facing repatriation.

The Japanese government has declared its intention to impose stricter rules on OPAs to curb suspected "human trafficking."

Jograd de la Torre, Tama president, said "corrupt and abusive labor practices" were the culprit. "And no matter how talented or legitimate our OPAs are," he said, "they will always be willing victims."

He said his group has drafted an Executive Order which they hope to submit to Ms Arroyo for consideration. She is the OPAs' only hope now, De la Torre said.

Tama is asking the President to create an "honest-to-goodness" monitoring center that will oversee the OPAs' general situation and daily activities. To ensure objectivity and efficiency, De la Torre said, the center should be operated by concerned artists and NGOs not connected in any way to Japanese promoters and local recruitment agencies, including the licensed ones.

Some of these agencies and promoters "use OPAs for their own interests," Tama claimed.

De la Torre explained: "These are the same people who perpetrate [abuse] against our artists. The monitoring centers in Japan, managed and operated by a group of licensed agency people in partnership with Japanese promoters and club owners, have become so ineffective, inefficient, and incompetent due to conflict of interests and direct involvement with ... stakeholders. We should rectify the system, if we want our overseas entertainment business to stabilize."

He said there was little chance that the Japanese government would change its mind about more stringent requirements for foreign performers. "We should be prepared for these new rules. The Japanese people are concerned about human trafficking; our problem is economic. We are not saying we are faultless. We are just saying that OPAs, for their own sake, should actively participate in monitoring their colleagues' activities."

The night Lionel Richie sang to Richard Gere

IT was a song about AIDS.

DAVOS, Switzerland—Singer Lionel Richie, behind a string of hits over three decades, is writing a song about AIDS which will be performed at the final show of India's hit pop music show "Indian Idol," he said here.

The idea is to help raise awareness of the HIV/AIDS problem and followed a chat with Hollywood actor Richard Gere, who has been involved in campaigning against the killer disease.

Richie told AFP the anthem would be sung by contestants on the final show early next month.

"Indian Idol," which started in October, has drawn millions of viewers in India.

Based on a concept originally broadcast in Britain, it aims to select one overall wannabe pop star from some 40,000 hopefuls. The winner will receive a recording contract with a music company and Sony Entertainment Television.

'Perfect'

Revealing the plan during a late-night chat at the World Economic Forum in the Swiss resort of Davos, Gere said he agreed with the show's producers for a song about AIDS to be sung at the finale.

"But we couldn't get this song," he added, until he got talking to Richie, also at Davos, and "Lionel said he had this song.

"He started to sing it to me. The hairs on the back of my neck flipped up. It was the perfect song, anthemic."

In ebullient form at the informal nightcap, Richie performed an a capella version of the song, titled "One World," as guests clapped in time. *AFP*

Clint Eastwood cited by jury of his peers

LOS ANGELES— Movie tough guy and "Million Dollar Baby" maker Clint Eastwood was crowned Saturday Best Director of 2004 by his fellow Hollywood filmmakers, giving him a major boost ahead of next month's Oscars.

Eastwood, 74, beat fellow legend Martin Scorsese, maker of "The Aviator," when the prestigious Director's Guild of America (DGA) awards were handed out at a banquet in Beverly Hills.

"The Aviator," a biopic about the life of eccentric US billionaire Howard Hughes starring Leonardo DiCaprio, is currently doing battle with Eastwood's dark story of a female boxer in the race for the Oscars.

Both men go to the Oscars armed with nominations for Best Director and each of their films has Best Picture Oscar nods as well as Best Actor or Best Actress nominations.

Eastwood, who is still best known to moviegoers as the star of the "Dirty Harry" films, also trumped "Finding Neverland" director Marc Forster, Taylor Hackford for "Ray" and Alexander Payne for the acclaimed road movie "Sideways."

He collected the DGA atatuette from filmmaker Steven Spielberg.

Winners of the DGA award have gone on to win the best director Oscar at the Academy Awards 51 times in the past 57 years, making the prizes a key barometer for the Oscars.

Eastwood's DGA win for "Million Dollar Baby" comes after he won the Golden Globe award for best director earlier this month.

He won the DGA award for his 1992 film "Unforgiven," and was nominated last year for "Mystic River" (2003).

Scorsese, 62, has never won a DGA award, despite six nominations for "Gangs of New York" (2002), "The Age of Innocence" (1993), "Goodfellas" (1990), "Raging Bull" (1980) and "Taxi Driver" (1976) and "The Aviator" this year.

Pundits have said the battle for Best Director Oscar is a two-horse race between Scorsese, who has never won one of cinema's top honours, and Eastwood, who won the Academy Award for directing "Unforgiven."

The Oscars, nominations for which were announced earlier this week, will be handed out at a ceremony in Hollywood on Feb. 27. *AFP*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE